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GUARDIAN



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Exclusive Interview:
Philip Miller

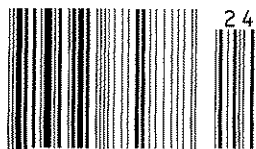
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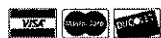
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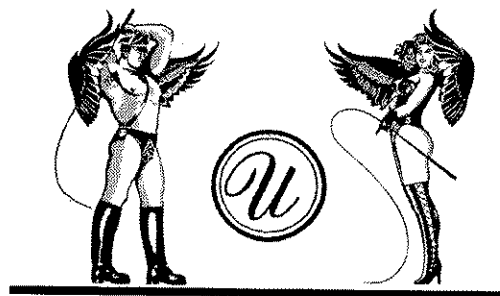
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"... but we don't take American Express!"



Our Guardian Angels

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ANGELS

Rex

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Letters to the Editor

Our Readers' Forum

Send comments, queries or criticisms to: Editor, c/o The Utopian Network, PO Box 1146, New York, NY 10156 or FAX to (516) 842-7518 or e-mail to siradam@ix.netcom.com. Include name and address please, which will be held confidential.

I read with great interest and empathy Tim Brough's piece, "The Pushy Bottom," in Issue #23. A wonderfully amusing piece, it reminds me of two things: 1) why I personally like Tim as a friend and as a community activist and 2) a comment my own lover/boy made so astutely once (and that I quote often: "Yes, comma, you may top me now, comma, Sir!")

I am glad to have recently re-started by subscription.... Looking forward to many more informative and well-balanced issues!

John F.
NYC

Thank you for (sending me a catalog of s/m items) and also for printing an outstanding publication dealing with the subject of s/m. It's nice to have some respect associated with this topic, instead of the sleaze commonly found in other pubs dealing with it. There are, like me, some serious practitioners of the art. Keep up the great work! Regards.

Michael H.
MI

I really do enjoy your publication and I am glad of your continuation of this *grand* magazine. It is more like the early days of #1 & 2, etc. Keep up the good work!

Nicole M.
LA

Please keep up the good work. It is refreshing to find a magazine that deals with the world of BDSM without excess salaciousness ... although to be fair, salaciousness does have its place!

Kevin P.
CA

...I really enjoy the mag.— nothing about contests, photos, etc.— just practical stuff. Hot and interesting. I'm a gay man, a Dad with a boy. Like your approach.

Bob C.
CA

KEEP THOSE CARDS AND
LETTERS COMING IN, FOLKS!
YOU WRITE 'EM —
— WE'LL PRINT 'EM!

Message from The Publishers

In this issue, in addition to the usual, "keep up the good work," compliments about *The Guardian* as a whole, the Letters to the Editor contained responses to specific articles.

First, the article on "Clinical Shock" has received another reply, this time more lengthy, which developed into an article on "Passing Out" from Robert M., a Doctor of Chiropractic.

Then, the article on finances elicited a reasoned critique from an attorney, Kait W., whose field of expertise is tax, estate and probate law. We asked the authors to comment in return on Kait's views.

And, last, did we get mail about the authorship of the "Houseplants of Gor" piece! Although the file as we found it on the internet had no authorship attributed, two netizens took the time to contact us and let us know that indeed there was an author — and she was known to them and to other people on the net. Fortunately, she is known to us as well. We contacted her and made things right. She was delighted, both to know that her "opus" had been published, and that she was going to be paid for it! So, all's well that ends well.

If you see something in this or a future *Guardian* that you want to comment about, please do. As you can see, we *will* publish your commentary/critique. We welcome compli-

ments — but we accept criticisms as well.

And, if an article spurs you to creativity, by all means write the article! It will be seriously considered, and if it is published, you will receive remuneration — either in cash or in credit toward items in the catalog of *Adam and Gillian's Sensual Whips and Toys*, (because that's us too.) (That's us two, too?)

One caveat, however. We will *not* publish *ad hominem* attacks on a writer. We received two letters attacking a writer and *not* the article, because the letter-writers just don't like this person. In each case, they did say that the letter was "not for publication." Apparently, it was just to try to discourage us from accepting, and paying for further work from this person. Uh-uh! *That* won't work! Articles are judged on their own merits. Even theirs, should they decide to be creative.

A final note: in '97 we will adjust our printing schedule, just a bit, which will mean that your *Guardian* may arrive a week or so later than you have come to expect it. That's because the current calendar keeps getting in the way of our birthdays, holidays, conventions, etc.. We hope that the adjustment will not be a burden to our distributors and that you will see *The Guardian* on the newsstand as usual.

Gerrie & Mitch

PASSING OUT

A Reply to "Clinical Shock"

by Robert M., DC

I got my first leather shirt made in 1969, I was 15 and had already been to the bars in San Francisco. It was as a child when I saw someone pass out for the first time. Since that early time I have seen some few people pass out for various reasons. Some of those reasons good, some bad.

Passing out is also known as black out, red out, brown out (no joking here), tweeking, fainting, syncope (medical term), fading, and falling out (military). *It is not shock.*

I am going to talk about both clinical shock and fainting in this article to clear up any confusion about the differences and provide solid scientific info to those who care. My sources are at the article's end.

SHOCK

First of all, shock is a clinical term of diagnosis which requires a medical evaluation by a trained person who has experience in differential diagnosis and some incredibly expensive equipment. Shock is one of the commonest reasons people die. Shock is "a state in which blood flow to peripheral tissue is inadequate to sustain life," (Merck Manual). For example, neurogenic shock is when the brain is damaged (there is no "psychogenic" subcategory of brain damage which I know to be associated with this diagnosis other than those attributed to the direct loss of brain tissue and associated difficulties to an insult of such magnitude. (Yes, brain injuries are occasionally called insults by physicians.) Spinal shock means that the spinal cord has been damaged and the cord and areas beyond the injury lose tone and blood pressure.

Each type of shock has its own symptoms. But the common value is the loss of blood to tissue. This means that when someone has a heart attack and the heart cannot pump blood, the per-

son actually dies of a lack of fresh blood to the heart and the tissues it serves. Or when someone acquires a bullet hole in his or her leg artery and bleeds out (shock). Shock is incredibly dangerous.

SYMPTOMS

The most common symptoms of shock are: confusion, sleepiness, lethargy, cold hands and feet, pale complexion, weak rapid pulse and a systolic blood pressure of less than 75 to 90 millimeters of mercury (depending on author). Usually a bluish mottling of the skin also happens. Some forms of shock, like septic shock, have different symptoms. And of course everybody

**The most common
form of fainting ... is
caused by a drop
in blood pressure ...
without an increase in
heart rate.**

reacts differently to body stress. The main thing to know is that if the above symptoms show up in your dungeon for any reason it is a medergency. Because "Untreated shock is usually fatal," (Merck Manual) and unless you have been trained in emergency procedures and are able to take blood oxygen levels, then you gotta find someone to do that for you. An emergency room is what you need now.

OXYGEN

Almost all of this is mediated by the blood volume, the sugar levels in the system (if you are hypo/hyperglycemic

be verrrrrry careful) and available blood oxygen.

Let's look at how the body responds to oxygen. The blood contains oxygen which the body uses at a variable but particular metabolic rate. If too much oxygen goes into the system (like when your bottom is screaming and screaming ...), the arteries contract to keep the volume down (like an automatic volume control). This especially causes the cerebral arteries to constrict. When the cerebral arteries constrict due to too much oxygen, the person can become confused and often cannot consciously stop breathing because the arteries are constricted in the brain at the same time it asks for more oxygen. The person often becomes very animated and then faints. The heart rate slows way down but rarely below 30-35 beats per minute. The body has effectively fixed the problem. It lay down and slowed down the heart.

WHERE IS THE BLOOD?

There is a simple equation which starts: Where is the blood? If the brain arteries are constricted due to too much oxygen then the blood has to be elsewhere. Not a good situation if you ask the brain. So it seeks out the blood. Which is closer to the ground. By the way, a brown paper bag over the face will help with hyperventilation. Just sit them down and have them breathe in a bag for a few minutes before they faint. Or don't, and let them faint...

FAINTING

Did you ever play blackout as a kid? You know — breathe fast and a lot until you are about to pass out then hold your breath and have someone squeeze you hard in a hug. Whoops, blackout! Congratulations. You win. This is called weight lifter's fainting. Some weight lifter's hyperventilate right before lifting. Then they lift and hold their breath causing a great pressure on the cerebral arteries at the same time including huge stress on the lower limbs. Again, too much oxygen. not enough artery. Whoops. Ca-Thud!

The most common form of fainting is called "Vasovagal syncope" aka "doing a vasovagal". It is caused by a drop in

continued

blood pressure due to physical or emotion stress and or pain without an increase in heart rate. (Where is the blood?) Whoops! So scared he passed out. Sound familiar? This is probably the most common type, ask any blood player about onlookers falling out in a dungeon.

For some folks even the sight of blood (Where?) can cause a vasovagal response. Sometimes this can be accompanied by an "autonomic outflow response" and they shit or piss themselves. This is real serious fear and is best known by lucky (kind of) war veterans (they made it out of whatever made them piss themselves). It is truly rare in SM.

Another form of fainting is called "hysterical" fainting. This is a separate form and is usually differentiated by lack of paleness and sweating. It was popular in the Victorian era.

IS PASSING OUT DANGEROUS?

Now let's look at another bit of social silliness. A couple of people in this community are playing "Chicken Little" about people passing out and dying due to having their breath held for them. When you don't get enough oxygen the body opens up your arteries (fight or flight) and the heart rate and contraction strength go way up. Usually the rate does not exceed 150-180 beats per minute.

If you are *not* in cardiovascular shape, or are under the influence or legal or illegal drugs (especially stimulants or beta blockers,) or if you are prone to heart or brain problems, then do not play this scene. If you *are* in good to excellent cardiovascular shape and have no preexisting health problems, then what you must do is find out how long you can hold your breath before you pass out and keep that as your limit. Fighter pilots pass out for a living, while flying two miles in the air at mach two, in fully armed aircraft loaded with very dangerous bombs and missiles. If they can pass out then so can you!

Here's a model for how some fainting works (at least in the western science

model). When you are in a scene and looking to get scared the body prepares you for fight or flight by opening the arteries in your extremities way up 'cause you might need more oxygen to escape or fight the monster. The body provides more endorphins (see about

thing from a heart attack or stroke to poison. You called an ambulance. Didn't you? Your scared aren't you. Don't faint...

Now if you don't have enough liquids in your system you are at a disadvantage. This is may be called Hypovolemia (low volume). If you pass out due to low blood volume (Sweating hard, no liquids, etc.) then what will

**... for fainting ... lie down with your feet up,
stay warm and you will be just fine ...**

endorphins below) at this moment due to physiological influence. Your breathing goes up a bit and your cerebral arteries start to close because you don't need them to run from the lions. Yet you cannot run away because someone thoughtfully tied you to a rack.

So your heart rate does not go way up to match the arterial dilation in your extremities. Let's see, fight/flight, heart rate didn't go up and extremities are vasodilated. Your brain is busy shutting down for the run. Where is the blood? Your blood is in your legs — not in your brain.

SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT

The symptoms for fainting are usually as follows: Feels lightheaded and gets worse with standing, mild nausea, weakness and sweating. Lies or falls down very quickly and has brief moment of unconsciousness. Returns quickly to pre-faint status. Very brief disorientation. Also a lack of the symptoms of shock.

The treatment for fainting is to lie down with your feet up, stay warm and you will be just fine in a bit. Drink some fluids. Then you had best explain how come you fell out before you do whatever you did again. You might or might not want to repeat the sensation.

The treatment for shock is to treat as for fainting but provide no liquids. *Remember that shock needs to be diagnosed by a professional.* It could be any-

help is liquids. Good old water. No bubbles though, they cause the kidneys to open up and dump more liquid.

Or your collar is too tight and has initiated a carotid response. (By the way folks, it is really not wise to poke or put pressure over the carotid arteries unless you know the damage it can do and are trained in how and why to do it, but when you are trained to do it, it can be *really* hot!) The carotid response can slow the heart by about a third.

Now, back to the story. So your heart rate hasn't gone up and your a'scared. Whoops — you black out, not enough blood in the brain and it seeks to find some. The best place to get some is lower so that's where you go. Down.

Or you walk into the perfect scene and suddenly become so scared you black out. (It happens — see vasovagal above.)

Or the sergeant has you at attention in hot weather for too long and you don't know the trick of how to stand at attention for a long time and your blood settles in your legs. Whoops, you fell out. "Let's go have a chat with the captain, shall we?"

Or you are finished with the active part of your scene and you get taken away from the lovely rack and your position changes. Suddenly there is much more blood in your arms than before. That blood came from your head. What question is your brain ask-

Can Your Slave Be Your Dependent?

A Critique by Kait W.

Dear Mitch and Gerrie:

Some comments on the article, "Is Your Slave Your Dependent" in Issue #23 — first, the statement on pg. 19 re: the threshold amount that triggers imposition of estate is incorrect; the amount was raised to \$600,000 nearly ten years ago. There are other statements that are simply incorrect as a matter of tax law, and legal advice being given by a non-lawyer.

On pg.18, in the third full paragraph, there is the statement that, should a slave be paid, "you will be unable to deduct the money (which the IRS will classify as a 'personal gift') and your slave will have to pay both Social Security and employment tax on the amount." Not true; if the IRS deems the money to have been a "gift," it is *not* subject to FICA or withholding at all — it is *not* earned income. And therefore neither eligible for IRA contribution, nor business expense.

It is possible to set up a slave as an employee, be it "housekeeper" or "computer technician," *but* FICA/Medicare will have to be paid, and income tax withheld (as well as pertinent state employment taxes, such as disability), unless the party being paid can be classified as an independent contractor. There is some merit to employing your slave, in that it gives the slave not only the ability to

contribute to an IRA, but also accrues quarters for his or her Social Security eligibility.

However, payroll paperwork is a royal pain (despite the existence of payroll software). And, unless you have your own business (even as a sideline), and can *legitimately* deduct the salary as a business expense, it is generally not deductible at all. That will mean that the income will be *doubly* taxed. The IRS doesn't allow us to deduct our sissy maids and gardeners; it does allow us to deduct our tax preparers and doctors. (Always choose a slave wisely...) A better solution

might be to buy an annuity for the non-working partner, or to purchase a life insurance policy in his or her name, and make annual gifts to him or her of the amount necessary to pay the premiums. (Gifts up to \$10,000 annually are excluded from gift tax)

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As for inheritance planning (page 19, full paragraph 2): Putting every-

thing into joint tenancy is *not* a good idea. With personal property (cash, stocks, etc.) not only can either party withdraw the *entire* account without consent of the other, but if either party is sued, and a judgement obtained, *all* joint tenancy assets (including real property) can be taken to satisfy the judgement. Additionally, the statement that "full control without tax liability" is not correct — there is still liability for estate tax if the total estate exceeds \$600,000, and, in the case of unmarried persons, it is *presumed* by the IRS that the deceased partner contributed *all* of the joint tenancy assets. This can be rebutted, but it's difficult, and might actually be

The Authors Reply

by Carolyn and Steve Vakesh

Some of Kait's points were corrections to our article, "Is Your Slave Your Dependent?" in Issue #23, (and we are of course glad to be corrected but somewhat shamefaced at getting these things wrong) and some seem to be matters of disagreement between professionals.

Our article very specifically focused on long-term, cohabitating couples. In several instances in the past few years, the IRS has chosen to classify money transferred between one gay partner to another in whatever ways *most* increased the tax liability. As Kait W. points out, gift tax becomes a problem here.

Employing a live-in lover was strongly discouraged by the financial professionals we consulted. Employing a slave who does *not* live with you (which seems to be Kait's suggestion) poses no special problems, and the status of slave is irrelevant to any paperwork. As for joint tenancy, yes, this does give both partners full access to the assets. If you don't trust the person, you shouldn't do this, but then what are you doing living with them if you don't trust them? Married couples are faced with this problem, and despite the fact that occasionally spouses take the money and run, the institution remains popular. Each couple must weigh the advantages and disadvantages for themselves.

Our article was intended to be a quick overview of a rather complicated subject, and as Kait points out, there are several topics, like trusts, that could have been covered in much greater detail. We hope we struck a balance between providing people with enough information to guide them

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Dependent - Critique

continued

the case with a working Master/non-working slave.

The term "Trust fund" is rather vague; the only vehicle that will take money out of your estate is an Irrevocable Trust, which has to meet a variety of IRS standards. Again, you are allowed to gift \$10,000 per year, per individual without having to file a gift tax return (or pay gift tax), and gifts can be made to correctly drafted Irrevocable Trusts.

The advice to see an attorney who specializes in estate planning is apt; he or she will also probably bring up the possibility of a *revocable* trust, which acts *in lieu* of a will. Unlike a probate, in which the decedent's heirs-at-law *must* be notified of the proceedings (thereby alerting the estranged homophobic members that there are pickings to be had), a trust is a private document, and the Trustee can generally act without court supervision. (Which is not to say that a trust cannot be upset; it can, but it is usually more difficult. A good no contest clause, specifically initialed by the person signing the trust or will, is also a good protective device.)

Given that there are at least moderate assets involved, a revocable trust, when combined with a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, can act as a vehicle during the partners' lifetimes to allow the able partner to care for the disabled partner's health and finances without having to resort to a court-approved Conservatorship ("Guardianship" in some states) — again avoiding unwanted relatives coming out of the woodwork. Even if there are no assets to speak of, unmarried partners should execute Nominations

when seeking professional financial guidance, but not so much that their eyes glazed over. We appreciate Kait's corrections and hope that Kait will become a resource for people in the scene who need this kind of assistance.

Remember, tax laws vary from state to state and individual circumstances will change the best tax and estate strategy for you to take. Even while we were preparing this article for press, several bills were pending before Congress that would have changed many of the financial details that impact on taxes. That is one of many fine reasons that we recommend seeking help from qualified professionals before taking any steps outlined in the article.

We didn't expect this article to draw much attention, but since it has, you might want to mention that people can turn to Larry M. Elkin's book, *Financial Self-Defense for Unmarried Couples* for more information of the topics we discussed. It's current (1995) and easy to understand. ♦

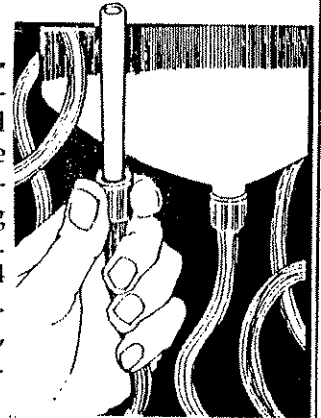
of Conservator, and Durable Powers of Attorney for Health Care and Directives to Physicians — and deliver copies of the latter two to their regular physicians before any crisis occurs. Keep a copy handy to show to paramedics, as well. All the legal documents in the world won't help if you can't find them when you need them.

Kait W. is an attorney whose field of specialization is Estate planning, tax and probate. ♦

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Comdr. Uriah Levy

& the End of Flogging in the U.S. Navy

by kate flanagan

The one man most often credited with the 1850 abolition of flogging in the American Navy was Com-modore Uriah Phillips Levy (1792 - 1862), a ship's Captain once court martialed and dismissed from the service for "excessive cruelty."

Levy was the first to practice theories originally propounded a generation earlier by John Adams. Adams wrote the first *Regulations* for the American Navy, based on the harsh British Articles of War and passed by the congress in 1800. However, he advocated the philosophy of the Citizen Soldier, whose discipline was based on pride and professionalism.

Adams' ideological preferences were not of great interest to the men who organized the American fleet. Alexander Hamilton reflected the majority view believing, "only the cat-o'-nine-tails could discipline the riffraff."

As a result, *The Regulations* gave Captains discretion to determine punishments aboard ship. The usual penalty was flogging.

As the first high-ranking Jewish naval officer, Levy really had no need to search for additional trouble. Anti-semitism was common, and for his part, Levy was vain and hotheaded. Added to this, he picked an unpopular cause to champion.

Flogging was a popular punishment in the Navy; and, those officers who had a great amount of time invested in military service staunchly opposed banning this as a means of punishment. The common belief was that all discipline would disappear if flogging were to be done away with.

From an early age, Levy had proved himself exceptionally bright and talented in the ways of the sea. He began his seagoing career at the age of 10 with a two year enlistment as a cabin boy. He interrupted his career to prepare for his Bar Mitzvah, but at the age of 14, he reenlisted, went to Navigator school in Philadelphia, and was promoted to the rank of able-bodied seaman.



Capt. Levy explains the cat'o'nine to a group of Washington statesmen.

He saw his first flogging in 1817 aboard the USS *United States* ... then known as a "hell ship." After this incident, Levy vowed to have flogging outlawed in the Navy completely and certainly on any ship under his command.

If Levy's ideas of discipline were considered "soft" by his colleagues, there was nothing weak about the man himself. Offended by the anti-semitic jibes of a Lieutenant Potter, Levy met Potter for a duel with pistols. Potter fired a total of five shots, the last nicking Levy's ear. Levy's first four shots were fired into the air. His fifth shot was to Potter's chest, killing him. The subsequent Court Martial acquitted him.

Four months later he was Court Martialed again, in

**... he was appointed
to the
Court Martial Board...
(because of) his vast
personal experience
with this process.**

another incident growing out of another officer's personal dislike for Levy and his religion. In all, Levy was Court Martialed six times and dismissed from the Navy twice.

If some fellow officers found Levy's religion provocative, nearly all found his disciplinary methods intolerable—the more so because they were outstandingly successful! While he rarely resorted to The Cat, his psychological sadism verged on brilliance at times.

Men who boarded the ship drunk were forced to wear around their neck a sign in the shape of a bottle that pronounced, "A Drunkard's Punishment." Thieves were given wooden neckties inscribed "Thief." Those caught brawling were made to drink a pot of sea water, "to clean the stomach and cool the blood." To the chagrin of his colleagues, it was said that Levy's ships maintained a high level of both discipline and morale through the use of these methods.

It was a case like this that resulted in Levy being dismissed from the Navy in 1842. A sailor was accused of mimicking an officer, thereby showing disrespect. Levy ordered a small dab of tar to be placed on the boy's bare buttocks and several parrot feathers stuck in the tar. The boy was exhibited on the main deck in this condition for five minutes, after which he was allowed to remove the plumage. Although all parties found these proceedings as entertaining as they were instructive, a Court Martial found Levy guilty of "excessive cruelty" for baring the the boy's butt to the crew ... most of whom had, due to the lack of privacy aboard warships — seen it many times before. President Tyler commuted Levy's sentence to a one-year suspension without pay.

After his return to service, Levy promoted the formal education of sailors, as well as the abolition of flogging. To make his point more effectively, Levy presented Navy Cats to Congressmen with the suggestion that if, "they saw such a great need for discipline, perhaps they ought to try the lash out on themselves." It is not recorded that any did so.

In 1850, Congress abolished flogging in the Navy. The Navy had finally adopted the opinion that severe physical punishment did more to instill rebellion than to actually correct

behavior. In fact, what was needed was a combination of moderate, reasonable and consistent punishments in connection with various psychological factors of command.

In 1860, Levy was promoted to Commodore, the highest rank in the Navy at the time. In 1861 he was appointed to the Court Martial Board by President Lincoln, who believed he was well suited to this position, "if for no other reason than by virtue of his vast personal experience with this process."

In March, 1862, having achieved the highest available rank as well as his greatest dream, Uriah Phillips Levy died of pneumonia, while on active duty. ♦

kate flanagan is a 30-year-old native of Washington State whom you've seen in these pages before. In "real life" she is a government bureaucrat because she enjoys being a public servant.

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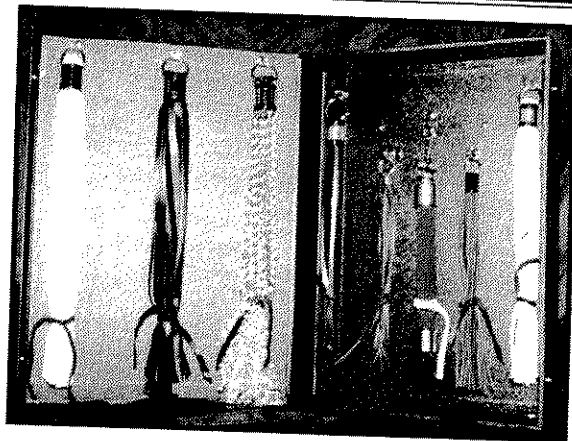
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Pirates' Lovers

The Tradition of the "Matelot"

by Mitch Kessler



from Capt. Charles Johnson's [Daniel Defoe]
A General History of the lives ... of the most famous ... Pyrates ... London 1736 —
Wm. L. Clements Library, U of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

The surprising thing about the Pirate Legends that we inherit from novelists like Robert Lewis Stevenson, is how much they got *right* — especially about the loves and loyalties of these early "Gangstas" of the Carribean Sea.

The novelists told us that pirates were scions of great families deprived of inheritances, who were rebuilding their fortunes as commanders of pirate ships. Some were. They showed us a Pirate Brotherhood where Captains were elected and every Bilge Rat and Swabbie had inalienable rights and limitless opportunity — which was largely true. Where they departed from fact most often, was in what they expurgated ... or never understood.

When Daniel Defoe wrote about shipwrecked sailor *Robinson Crusoe*, he was telling almost all of the almost-true story of a marooned pirate, and the man who probably was his "Mate," in more ways than one. The tale of the (avuncular) love of Long John Silver for young Jim Hawkins in Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, was a familiar one in the Freebooting Brotherhood ... as were Capt. Hook and Mr. Smee's various obsessions with "Lost Boys," as portrayed in the UN-Disneyfied version of *Peter Pan*.

Roots of the Legend

All this, and the legendary gallantry of pirates toward their female captives,

Pirates, continued

had its roots in *who* these men were.

Children who became Caribbean pirates were most likely to be from the poorest families in England ... when they grew up in families at all. Often they were "foundlings," (which is what a Real Bastard calls an actual bastard). If, by the age of thirteen at the oldest, such children were not working, they were likely to be turned out-of-doors with no marketable skill. Many would starve; others turned to petty crime for which they might be hanged or "transported" (to penal colonies, usually in the new world). Apparently, few of the girls survived. Boys might join one of the bands wandering the English roads. Harsh laws kept them constantly on the move to avoid the gallows, the flogging post, or the convict ships. Some vagabonds would reach the seaports and some of these boys would become the men who terrorized the Caribbean in the seventeenth century.

The Pirates' World

In all their wanderings they lived in virtually an all-male world. At sea they were members of a society composed entirely of men. Unsurprisingly, as pirates, they had little interest in women either as companions or as victims. Ladies, who might be ransomed, were treated well, considering the circumstances. Their ransoms were divided as part of the general plunder, but their bodies were more or less sacrosanct. However, if swift, safe and profitable ransom could not be expected, female captives were simply dropped into the sea with any other valueless plunder for which the pirates had neither room nor use.

Male captives were an entirely different matter. Rich or poor, they had some kind of value. A likely man or boy might become a pirate, even if noone ashore wanted to ransom the

fellow or buy him as a slave. Many of the more successful pirates kept a "boy" who was as much an heir and apprentice as he was a servant and sex-toy.

It is difficult to gain an idea of the number boys who sailed with the buccaneers. Seaborne plundering and raiding of coastal villages occasionally resulted in boys as young as ten or

**... compared to the
courts and Inquisitions
of Europe, they were
almost paragons of
Mercy!**

twelve years old serving side by side with seasoned buccaneers.. Some pirate ships carried enough boys to make it necessary to specify their duties in the vessels' regulations, and to enumerate the procedure for apportioning their share of the plunder. One captured pirate "ship" carried fifteen sailors plus four cabin boys, — *and* the pirate commander.

However, most Pirate Boys, (or, more accurately, Pirate's Boys) were in their early teens and had served earlier as cabin boys on commercial vessels, or as powder monkeys in Navies. At sea, boys lived with adult crew members, ate and slept with them, served their needs, accepted their values, and adopted their mode of life. When boys boarded a pirate vessel for the first time as captives or volunteers, they discovered the sexual orientation of the crew was the same as that of their companions aboard the merchant or naval vessel where they previously served or in

the wandering beggar bands where they first encountered the ways of the world. There is no record of any female juvenile sailing as a pirate crew member although at least two adult women became full-fledged buccaneers and commanded a small vessel of their own.

Care and Training

As lads grew older and able to undertake the chores of able-bodied sailors, their training could not be left to chance. Aboard pirate ships this was done in a different fashion than in merchant service or the Navy. Boys aboard pirate vessels were almost always under the control of a single individual. Often the supervising adults were deeply attached to their lads. Ritualized beating of boys for punishment was a characteristic of "honest" seafarers — it was not practiced in The Brotherhood.

In fact, pirate discipline made *less* use of torture, death, and mutilation, than did the respectable society that had discarded them! With some notable individual exceptions, buccaneers were probably less entertained by the suffering of others than the average person of the time, be they "common, gentle or titled." Without doubt, they were ruthless killers and ingeniously vicious when extracting information. But compared to the Courts and Inquisitions of Europe, they were almost paragons of Mercy.

And even Blackbeard, who was known for his exceptional cruelty where captives were concerned, had a boy whom he raised with considerable care and caring.

Another pirate, Captain Charles Swan, had a chosen lad who was always provided a share when booty was apportioned. Evidently he had loved his boy since first setting eyes on him when the child was only seven or eight years old. Swan was determined to have him, and ultimately resorted to

continued on pg 14



Captain Condent's men rode up and down the decks of a newly taken Spanish ship on the shoulders of captive priests.

kidnapping when all else failed. The boy was taken aboard Swan's ship and despite the tearful pleas of a parent, the pirate would not return him. He promised the mother only that he would, "make much of him" — and the captain was as good as his word. He trained the lad carefully, according to surviving testimony.

One of the most notable of early eighteenth-century sea rovers, William Dampier, was also deeply attached to a boy he had acquired from another European seafarer. To purchase the boy, Dampier was forced to buy the mother as well, but there was little doubt about which of the pair appealed to him. The boy, Joely, "was painted [tattooed] all down the Breast, between his Shoulders behind; on his Thighs (mostly) before; and in the Form of several broad Rings, or Bracelets round his Arms and Legs." While it seems unlikely that *every* buccaneer had a taste for boys, and at least a few married and sired children, homosexuality seems to have been the pirate norm and preference.

Passionate, "comradeships" between adult pirates were

common enough to be unremarkable ... or at least unremarked-on. Contemporary writers took note of them only in stories in which a pirate who might have escaped shipwreck or capture chose instead to share the fate of his particular friend. This devotion and literal self-sacrifice eventually became part of the Pirate Legend along with Pirate Lads, Ransomed Ladies, Buried Treasures and the rest.

The Matelot

However, there was another form of bonding among pirates that never actually made it into the romantic versions of the buccaneer's life — that of "Matelotage." Crusoe's "Man Friday" was probably his Matelot.

In the early 1600s, European settlers and seafarers practiced an institution called matelotage. The word matelot itself is French, meaning literally, "a sailor." At first, this was probably no more than a Master-servant relationship originating in cases of men selling themselves to other men to satisfy debts or to obtain food. Matelots were overworked, beaten, sexually abused, sold or slaughtered at their owners' whims.

With time, the number of pirates increased and they began to make and observe their own laws and customs. By the 1700s, Matelotage came to be recognized as an inviolable attachment — at least as long as the Master wanted it. This gave matelotage a sacrosanct aura among buccaneers. With time and the growth of the Pirate Brotherhood, an informally accepted system of *mutual* obligations became recognized between Master and matelot. Monogamy seems to have been involved as well. No buccaneer is described as having more than one matelot at a time.

Property Rights

By the second half of the 18th century, a sharing of all property was a recognized feature of matelotage. The common ownership of goods even extended in most cases to inheritance. According to European law, wives or children were entitled to all property of the deceased, but in the Caribbean wives and children were as uncommon as the observance of legal niceties, and when a man died all goods went to his partner, whether Master or matelot. So strong was the practice that after his attack on Maracaibo, the pirate captain L'Olonnais was careful to make certain that the booty was divided not only among the survivors, but that the portions of those killed were distributed to their servants. On occasion, the mutual ownership of property was even formalized by setting down in writing the agreement that all goods belonged to the survivor.

On the rare (and usually unfortunate) occasions when pirates took wives, the rights of the matelot were eroded only in terms of his claim to survivor's benefits. He remained



matelot, retained access to his Master's property, and demanded and usually obtained the same connubial rights as the husband.

When Captain Louis Adhemar Timothee Le Golif made the decision to wed one of the women imported into Tortuga by the Governor around 1670, Pulverin, the captain's matelot, was distraught. He first sought solace in drink, but subsequently claimed his right and was admitted to the marriage chamber. Despite his access to all that was his Master's, Pulverin was never reconciled to sharing his Master with a female. He concealed his dissatisfaction for years but upon discovering the woman *in flagrante delicto* with another man, he killed both his Master's wife and her lover, and fled into the wild and inhospitable Cockpit Country, never to be heard of again. Captain Le Golif was said to have grieved for his matelot for the remainder of his life. ♦

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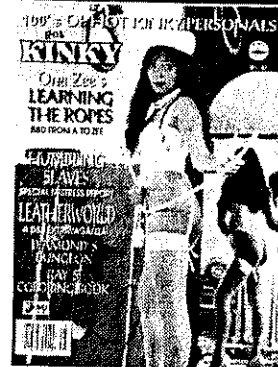
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The Myth of the Australian Dog Whip

No marks? No way!

by Adam Selene

I am a whipmaker. From time to time I get requests for an "Australian Dog Whip." Descriptions vary from request to request. It's 4 feet long; it's 8 feet long; it's made of deer-hide or kangaroo hide or what it's made of is a trade secret. It's braided; it's made by some special process. It's made in the Outback, it's not from Australia at all. This went on for years.

The key to this whip's appeal, beyond the mystery surrounding it, is that it's a sexy-looking tapered single-tail whip that, "cracks like a pistol every time," but, "never leaves a mark." It sounds lovely. I'd want one myself. In fact, I've been trying to design a non-marking, cracking whip for years. One company, HardLove Leather (825 N. Hayden Rd. #C-8, Scottsdale, AZ 85257 (602) 947-3520) has had considerable success working toward that goal, but their whips, like mine, either crack well and do damage, or are kind to skin, but sort of "thud" or "pop" unimpressively in the air.

Eventually it emerged that people had learned of this remarkable whip by watching NuWest videos. The dogwhip is used in a number of their titles, and in one piece of dialog, the Top gets the bottom to agree to a single-lash flogging based on the "softness" of his AUSTRALIAN DOG WHIP and the promise that it would not leave marks. Although fake floggings are part of the stunt-actor's stock and trade — (the technique is essentially the same as in the "Wrap Around" stunt. The whip cracks, losing most of its energy. What remains carries the thong onward to touch the "victim" who reacts appropriately) — NuWest is well-known for the undoctored authenticity of their action.

They don't use stunt doubles or trick photography. So, I finally contacted both Nu West Productions and the Australian Plaiters and Whipmakers Association. Association President Ron Edwards had this to say on the subject:

Here in Australia we get to hear about all sorts of stuff Australians sell in (the)USA. A dogwhip is just that — a cheap whip for chasing dogs out of your front garden — small, cheap and inaccurate.

Dave Neilson of NuWest Productions, (PO Box 1239, San Marcos CA 92079, (909) 763-4556, email to: dmcew@worldnet.att.net), was equally forthcoming:

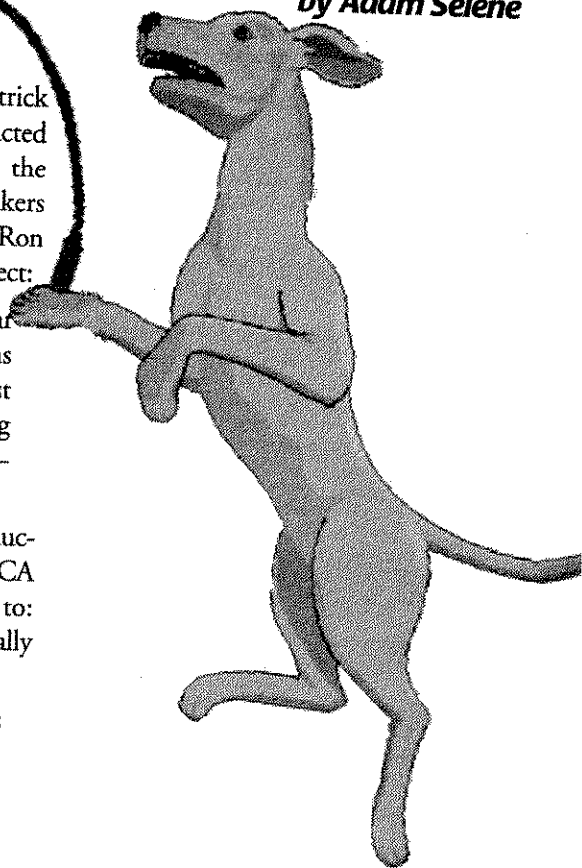
I bought two of the dog whips when I was in Australia about seven or eight years ago. They were made in a small shop outside Canberra. I've never seen leather like it before or since. They are solid leather. The handle and shaft is fairly stiff for about half the length and then extends into a flexible "tail." Unlike other leather of this thickness and diameter it is very light, almost aerated. It's the lightness that causes it not to cut or mark, but they do sting like hell, and they do leave light red welts — but not railroad track types, such as a rattan cane would.

When I was back there two years ago, I had all intentions of seeing if I could get a supply of them (you're not the only one to whom people have expressed an interest) but the place was closed up and I couldn't track the old guy down.

That sounds an awful lot like a traditional Southern African "Sjambok." To

make one of these, a strip of very thick elephant or rhinoceros rawhide was carved to the desired taper and then hand softened to the desired flexibility. Curiously, HardLove has had some success carving laminated cowhide into single-lash whips of several kinds. Among tribal people, sjamboks are used as non-lethal weapons, boxing "gloves", and cattle-driving tools. The European South Africans copied the design in polypropylene plastic and used them as an ecologically responsible substitutes for chemical Mace.

What Australian critter has a hide thick enough for making sjamboks, or how African whips wound up in Canberra, rather escapes me. So having gone to the source for the true story ... The Australian Dog Whip still retains a measure of mystique and mystery. ♦



And ... the Facts of the Singapore Cane

by Gerrie Blum

In 1994, Michael Fay was convicted of vandalism in Singapore and sentenced to a caning.

The "civilized" world was up in arms about the "brutality" of the situation and the penalty.

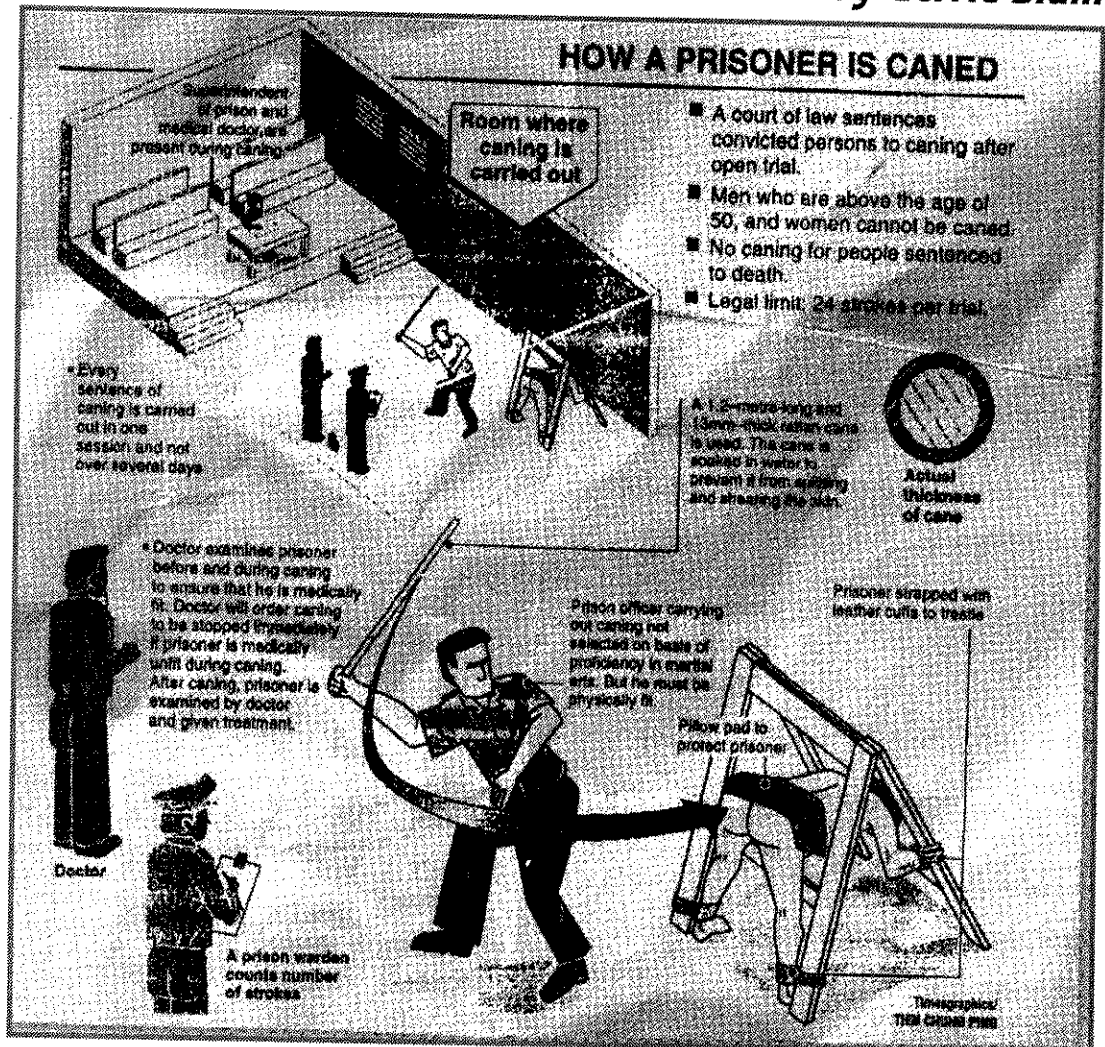
In the US, television talk shows had guests who demonstrated with kendo sticks how this "nice young man" was abused and beaten.

Fast-forward to 1996. While researching an article on flogging for *The Guardian*, this writer came across the drawing and text at the right. It was released by the Singapore Government.

It shows that the diameter of the rod is more like a heavy rattan cane — one that some of our readers may have experienced for themselves "in scene." The "victim" is protected by a kidney belt and other padding as well as a frame which limits the follow-through of the caner. A doctor is standing by, in case of unintended injury.

According to the official diagram, the rod is 1.2 meters long and 13mm in diameter. (That's approximately 42" long by 9/16" thick). By comparison, the canes sold by **Adam and Gillian** can be that long but with diameters of only 6-10 mm (1/4-3/8").

What is interesting is that the cane is used *after* being soaked in water. They say it is to "prevent splitting." BDSMers will know that it also makes the cane tip heavier and more "whippy," creating more "effect."



Another item of interest is the stance of the caner: he is turned so far around, he almost has his back to the target, his weight on one foot. When he strikes, he uncoils and shifts his weight, maximizing the speed and force of the blow, so that twelve of these strokes is considered an appropriate addition to the penalty for rape and armed robbery.

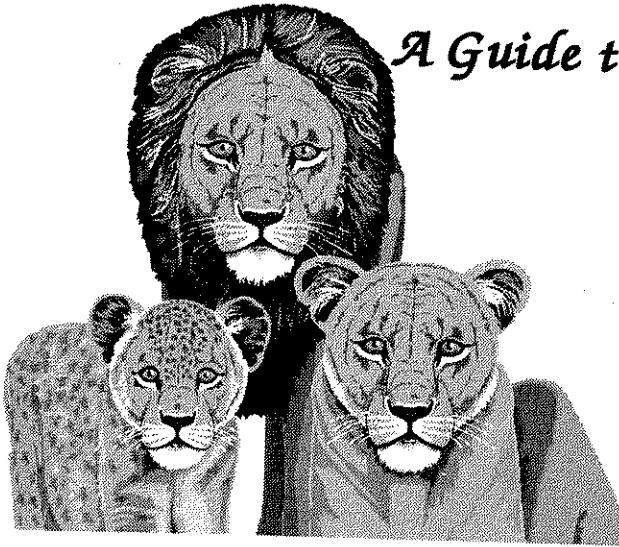
The frame, however, is another story. Perhaps it should be added to our "Pantheon of Spanking Benches"! But, more about that in another issue of *The Guardian*. ♦

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in the 4th Century.
Read more about it in Issue #20 of *The Guardian*.

Exploring the Leather Jungle

A Guide to the Shadow World of BDSM

by Carolyn and Steve Vakesh



Those who venture into the shadow world of erotic play parties, leather clubs, and SM gatherings hold their most damning secret close to the heart. They weave myths of pain and pleasure, beauty and blood, never discussing the real taboo truth. Those outside see the beautiful women holding whips, the muscular men bound in chains. They hear the screams in their minds and shudder. But truth wipes the sting from the whip and cuts through the gossamer chains. The real BDSM world is mundane and ordinary, riven with politics, shot through with secretiveness, and filled with human love and compassion.

If this is your first time entering our world you may feel alone with your secret bedroom pleasures. In fact, the majority of people who engage in some form of BDSM play never join a local support group, never travel to any of the growing number of leather events or conferences, and probably never tell anyone about the whips in their underwear drawer or the eye hooks screwed to the bed frame. While there are a number of good reasons to keep your private passions secret, there are an equally large number of reasons to reject this loneliness and isolation, if only for a while.

Associating with the leather community can be intoxicating. Talking to people who know you're a slave and treat you as such or who know that you are the dominant and don't ques-

tion your rights, can add ripples of depth to your relationship. Watching others handle their whips, their toys, and their submissives gives you an education that you can't get from books or personal experience. Seeing a submissive cringe and cry out from pain and smelling the melange of fear, sweat and leather makes movies and glossy magazines seem plastic and fake.

Knowing others who are involved in BDSM provides you with someone to talk to when things are going wrong in your relationship. How many of us can go to our mundane friends and say, "My Master hardly ever beats me these days and I don't know what's wrong"? You'll find people in the public groups who have been through it all before. They know what you're going through and they can help. And if you need more

than talk, there's a good chance you'll meet someone who is willing to play. Stepping into the BDSM world can be a wonderful experience. But every new world holds dangers. This article will try to let you know what you're going up against.

If you're ready to meet others who feel the same hungers you do there are a number of ways you can approach the "leather community."

You can go to a one time event like a party, you can go to a leather convention, or you can join a club or organization. Each has advantages and disadvantages.

Parties

For many of us playing with new people or playing in public gets us hot. If that's true of you and you're already fairly comfortable about doing it in front of people, a party might be the place to start. Making your first event a party has a number of advantages. Because parties typically last only one night, it's much easier to make the logistical arrangements to attend one. You don't need to find someone to babysit your children for an entire weekend or kennel your dog to do it. Because they only last one night, you don't have to worry about developing relationships with people you may never want to see again. And finally, parties are fun. You can social-

***Your first party will be
either far milder than
you had hoped for, or
far more severe than
you realized it would be.***

ize, voyeuristically watch the action and have some refreshments while you decide if you want to learn more about the public BDSM scene.

What to Expect

Your first party will be either far milder than you had hoped for or far more severe than you realized it would be. We went to our first party fearful and expecting the worst. Carolyn spent days fretting that she had nothing "fetish" to wear and gathering courage to take her clothes off in public. Steve practiced with his whip for hours hoping not to embarrass himself. Both of us agonized over our attire. We both packed and unpacked our toybag hoping to hit upon the most impressive mix of toys without overdoing it. We needn't have bothered. What we found was a play party in which no one took off their clothes and deerskin whips were gently whacked on denimed buns. Black t-shirts and boots were as close to fetish dress as this crowd got.

Happy that we knew how play parties worked, we went to our next one blithely confident. We found corset-clad mistresses wielding bull whips, impressive pectorals bulging out of leather harnesses, nude slaves prancing about. Fisting, and cutting and piercing scenes. There was enough leather at that party to re-create a herd of cows, as well as rubber, pvc, and the latest in fetish fashion.

The lesson is, whatever you think the play party will be like, you will be wrong. Parties are a product of the people who attend them. If you live in a sexually open area like New York, Chicago, or Seattle, you'll find some pretty extreme parties. If you attend a party in Augusta, Georgia or Arcadia, Ohio expect it to be much milder, but you can never be certain. Several small Midwestern and Southern communities have active BDSM communities that, despite the fact that their members have never visited either coast or attended any of the big conventions, certainly know how to throw hot parties.

Party Manners

We are not going to give you the full party etiquette course. (*The Guardian* ran an excellent article on that back in Issue 2, and little has changed.) But for your own comfort, and of course if you want to be invited back to a party, there are a few things you need to know.

You don't have to play. Most people new to parties sit out the first one and just watch. This is perfectly acceptable.

Many parties have rules so complex and Byzantine, they were clearly drawn up by a committee chosen for the inability of its members to reach a consensus or communicate clearly. Find out what the rules are and obey them. Ask if you have questions.

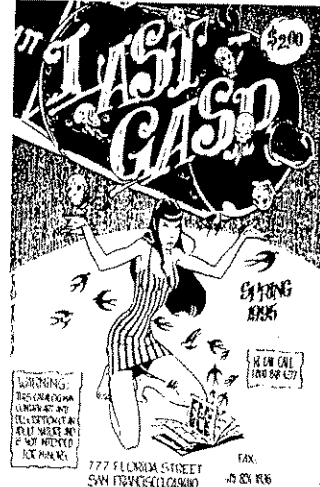
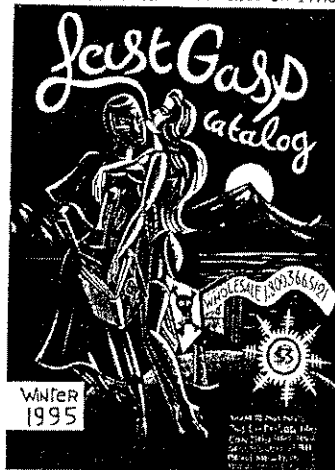
Most parties don't allow smoking in the play area. If you smoke, find out where the smoking area is and use it.

continued on pg 20

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Don't approach submissives who are clearly the property of someone else. If you wish to speak to them or play with them approach the person who seems to be in charge and ask. Under no circumstances should you intrude on an ongoing scene.

Don't touch anyone else's toys without permission.

Don't assume that anyone will play with you without asking first.

Don't criticize other people who are playing.

Don't be upset if no one plays with you at your first party. You're being assessed and scoped out. Chances are you'll have better luck next time.

Use your vanilla party manners and remember to thank the host/hostess; offer to help clean up afterwards, and otherwise behave as you would at any semi-formal party.

Finding Parties

Finding parties is one of the most challenging tasks in the Leather Jungle. Very few of them are publicly advertised and almost all of them want some kind of guarantee that you are not a moralistic, right-wing maniac who will cause trouble, a serial killer, or a member of the local constabulary. What that means is that the best way to find parties is by word-of-mouth or through established groups. For someone just entering, that can pose a problem.

There are a few other places you can find parties. Check magazines like this one. Get an online account and start frequenting the BDSM areas on CompuServe, America Online, or the Internet. Often members of these groups hold parties for their members. If you're interested in the world of science fiction and fantasy, check your local science fiction convention or SCA event. A growing number of these events also have play parties associated with them.

Ask at your local BDSM supply shop, or ask your whip-maker or bondage toy-maker. An amazing number of them are friendly and helpful. Most leather conventions have play parties associated with them, though these are usually off-site and by invitation only. You'll have to ask around at the convention to find out about them.

Leather Conventions

Why go to a convention? Aside from the great parties, conventions are also an excellent place to meet people, broaden your education, buy new toys,

*Conventions ... attract
a broad spectrum
of people, from
the most experienced
to the merely curious.*

and even fawn over the growing number of BDSM celebrities. Most have seminars on various aspects of BDSM. These are frequently oriented toward novices, but there are usually a few aimed at the more experienced. At the few national conventions, many of the seminars are presented by noted experts in the field.

A few conventions revolve around the BDSM equivalent of beauty pageants. The most famous of these are the **Mr and Ms Leather** contests in which contestants are judged in a variety of categories that include contribution to the leather community and usually the presentation of a short scene. Virtually any convention will have a fetish ball with music and dancing. Fashion shows are becoming more common and are the main events at those conventions geared

more to fetish attire. For whatever reason, fetish events tend to be far more expensive than generic BDSM events.

Some conventions are locally organized and will be in the same city year after year. Others, such as the National Leather Association's **Living in Leather** move about the country. Still others are onetime gatherings commemorating special events, such as the large gathering in New York for the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. The larger, national events attract more celebrities, and of course more toy-makers for the vendors area, but the smaller, regional conventions are often more fun, and are much better places to meet people. Many of the attendees of the large conventions are there not to meet new people, but to renew their acquaintances with old friends. They tend to form into tight, unapproachable groups. Small conventions on the other hand are much more social and more of the attendees seem interested in making new friends.

Conventions of all sizes attract a broad spectrum of people from the most experienced to the merely curious. They're a good choice for your first entry into the BDSM community as you can easily fade into the background and just watch. You'll also be exposed to the widest variety of activities in the shortest period of time. For most conventions you won't even need a fetish wardrobe, though you might in order to be admitted to the evening balls and dances.

Parties, if you can find them, are almost always a lot of fun, and everyone should attend one of the national conventions, at least once.

Next time, we will continue our tour of the Leather Jungle, with a look at the various kinds of local groups that are available to BDSM people. ♦

Carolyn & Steve Vakesh have been active in the scene wherever they have lived in the past 17 years of their marriage. They have written about their "24/7" relationship for The Guardian. (See Issues 20 and 21.)

Secrets of Tress & Handle Design

from a Professional Whipcrafter

by Adam Selene

Tress is such an apt description of the thick, flowing bundle of strips at the business end of the modern pleasure flogger. It is a fairly modern term; I learned it from the New York whipmaker, "Luchia," at the club Paddles in 1987 or '88. If one wants to be pedantic, there are traditional terms: "cats" have 4 - 10 tails, while "whips" have a single lash or thong — but in everyday usage, the term "tress" covers the business end of both cats and "floggers."

A flogger gets most of its effect from the final few inches of the tress. Everything else in the design exists to deliver those tress tips to their target accurately and at the desired force and speed.

Cascade

A well-designed general purpose flogger should be able to make the tips either hit together in a tight bundle even at slower speeds, or can be made to spread out and fall in a gentle "cascade" of tress tips. In judging the tress itself you want to see uniform width and cleanly cut material. On a new flogger you want to see uniform tips, and tresses all the same length — give or take a leather-thickness or two. As a whip is used, the tresses may stretch, (this is true especially of deer and moose hide) or they may fray (particularly with very narrow tresses or with suede). The

answer is an occasional trim with a sharp scissors.

Very little cowhide made in the last five years is "struck" — i.e., dyed all the way through. As that trend emerged, some of the more particular premium whipcrafters began to dye the cut edges of their leather. As a result, colored tress edges came to be associated with the highest standards of workmanship. Attractive as this embellishment can be, it doesn't actually add anything to the quality of the flogger, but it does add to the cost — and can be used to make a second- or third- rate product resemble the top of the line.

Design

Assuming the arm (the speed and power of the stroke) is constant, the performance of the flogger and its actual effect ... what it feels like, whether or not it will make bruises or break skin, for example — is determined by the tress design. This includes the length, width, thickness, shape, texture, and hardness of the individual tresses, as well as the length and mass of the total tress bundle.

Here the raw number of tresses in a flogger is only half the story. Garment weight cowhide, for example, ranges from 1/32" to as much as 1/8" in thickness. In thicker leathers, strips taken from different places on the same hide can vary in thickness by as much 50%.



The thickness of the individual tresses needs to be considered, or else the diameter of the bundle as a whole must be specified.

Braiding

Braided tress is a luxury, but it is more than an affectation. Braiding is "mascara for leather." It is used to make lashes longer and thicker. A piece of leather braid is both stronger and more flexible than a single piece of leather of the same thickness. Braided round tress is more flexible, more durable, and "flies" better than solid leather of the same diameter. The same is true of flat-braided tress which will not fray at the end as easily as simple leather strip. Braiding also gives the designer more options. A round braid can be given a flat end (braided or not). This hybrid form gains speed and/or accuracy

continued on pg. 22

Design Secrets, continued from pg. 21

through reduced wind resistance, but will be less likely to mark skin than a round-braided or knotted tress tip. Flat braid having an odd number of strands almost always ends in a knot or back-braid, producing a thicker heavier section at the tip. With an even number of strands, (4 or 6, usually) the tress tip can be the same thickness as the rest of its length but may be just a bit abrasive due to its woven texture.

Braiding should be firm, tight and flexible, without "hard spots." Gently rolled between the fingers and then compressed along its length, the weave should not "open" significantly. Good craftworkers tend to make their braid as tight as they possibly can. If this makes the tress a bit stiff, it also makes it dense and long lasting. In judging braid you will also want to note the number of "strings" used. Within reason, "more is better." In round braid up to 3/8" diameter, six strands are better than four. In flat braid, the same lace done up as five-strand braid will be thicker than three-strand, although they will be of the same width and at first glance, look very much the same. Braiding is, obviously, labor intensive and therefore costly. However, a well-braided flogger can be used hard and often for decades.

Variables

In choosing or designing a flogger these variables need to be considered:

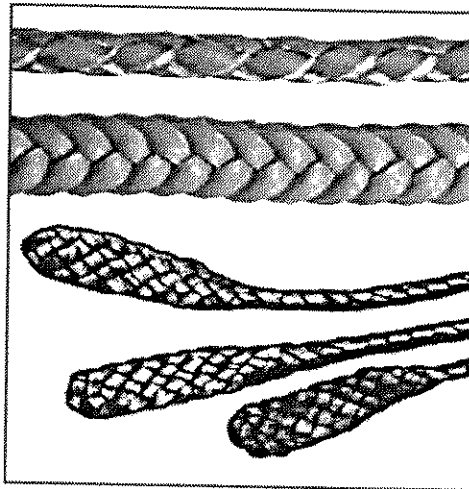
Denser tresses move faster and hit harder than "airy" ones.

Soft Flexible tresses are more sensual and less likely to do less skin damage than hard, stiff ones.

Thin, hard, narrow or round tresses in sparse tress bundles (typical of cats) are usually intense and severe. They "cut," leaving welts, or breaking skin. In thicker bundles they do less skin dam-

age, and, depending on their composition are said to "burn" or "be sting-y."

Wider tresses have more wind resistance than narrower ones and therefore move slower. The narrower tress has more "sting"—the wider, more "slap." As the thickness of the tress bundle increases, the "slap" becomes more like "thud," and at a certain point, becomes more punishing than the same mass of thinner tresses. Air resistance will make



overly-wide tresses "float" in random directions. To reach the target with any accuracy, they must be swung faster and hit harder than thinner tresses.

The usual "medium" range of tress width is from 3/8 to 5/8"; 1/8 to 1/4" is decidedly "thin"; anything much over 1/2" begins to be "wide." For most designs, 3/4" begins to approach the practical limit of tress width.

Tress Bundle Thickness:

In general, extra-thick bundles are used for more sensual and caressive floggers. A thick bundle of tresses will be more "thuddy" than a sparse one, but it will hit with more force, too. So while a thick tress bundle will be less likely than a thin one to leave bruises, welts, or break skin, it will be more likely to throw a bottom off balance, or knock

the wind out of him or her. If the material is harder or stiffer, the flogger may start acting more like a club, and it may also make bruises or break skin.

A narrow or "sparse" bundle will hurt more and be more likely to leave marks. The denser and harder the material the more this will hold true.

Longer tresses move faster and hit harder than shorter ones. If two bundles are the same diameter, the shorter one will be more "thuddy." An 18" length is suitable for "over the knee" or "in bed" use. For stand-up floggings in average sized rooms, 22-26" works well and suits the fast "figure 8" and martial arts-inspired flogging styles. It is the practical limit for controlled "spinning" of the flogger and for under-the-arm moves. At 27" you have to start considering where the backswing might land and tip speed and impact are beginning to increase considerably. This is a good length for thick soft floggers, and for really nasty cats. The practical limit for general purpose floggers is somewhere in the 33-36" range. Longer than that calls for a more bullwhip-y kind of technique, resulting in an extremely powerful "hit."

Materials

Full Grain Cowhide is the most common leather for flogger tress. It is made from the hides of beef animals when they have no further use for them. It can be from 1/16" to nearly 3/8" thick, but in the softer more flexible tannages preferred for floggers it is usually not more than 3/32". One side, the "skin side," is smooth and may be glazed, textured or colored to suit the whim of the tanner, or the demands of the clothing and footwear industries. The "flesh side" has a matte finish, that (especially in the thicker leathers) may verge on being nappy or fuzzy.

Cow Suede is harvested from the same beasts, but is entirely different. Hides with too many skin blemishes to be Full Grain leather are "leveled" on

*Horsehair... (u)sed with a lot of force ...
does begin to make micro-cuts in the skin
that ... can make a dip in a chlorinated
pool into an affair to remember!*

both sides producing a very soft, flexible leather, about 1/16" thick. It's one of the least expensive flogger materials, but it has some interesting characteristics.

When new, it is somewhat abrasive, so a prolonged flogging starts "thumpy" but it becomes more fiery and intense as the skin is sensitized. As suede is used, it picks up skin oil, becoming smoother and heavier. It is not nearly as long-lasting a material as full-grain leather but will still provide several years of regular domestic use.

The "Game Hides," deer, moose, elk, are extremely soft, flexible and "airy." They can be had in both full-grain and suede tannages and are probably more durable than the equivalent cowhide. Ideally, deerskin will be about 1/32" with moose and elk about 75% thicker. However, these are free-range critters, harvested at different ages, so that some moose is thinner than some deer. Color also alters the thickness and feel of game skins. Black-dyed moose is almost half the thickness of tan, with brown somewhere in between. Deer holds its thickness better. All this means is that when buying game hide floggers, don't ask, "How many tresses?" ask "What is the diameter?"

Rubber, which is made in a variety of hardnesses and surface finishes, has a feel all its own, and aside from very small, light and stinging "cock & ball" or "breast" whips, with round tresses, the feel is *not* sensual. Denser and less yielding than most leathers, it has an intense

initial feeling sometimes compared to branding. This is followed by a lingering afterglow, similar to sunburn. It is generally chosen to give a great deal of pain with a minimum of skin damage. This doesn't mean that "rubber doesn't leave marks." It only means that it marks less for the same amount of misery inflicted. It is also much easier to clean and disinfect than any leather.

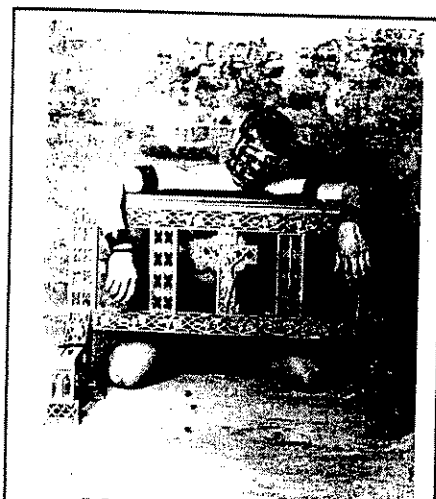
Cordage, that is to say, rope and string, have been used for whip tress longer than has leather. Traditionally, 8-10 lengths of manila or hemp line 1/8" to 1/4" in diameter have been fixed to handles to make "punishment cats." The thinner cords were usually knotted to increase impact; the heavier ones had their ends dipped in tar, or were simply allowed to fray and unravel in use. Natural fiber rope is abrasive as all hell and tears up the skin considerably. Modern nylon cordage eliminates some of the bloodshed, but fashioned into cats in the traditional manner, still produces a flogger of formidable capabilities. However, nylon line twine is another story entirely. It can be cut and allowed to fray, producing a brush of fine fibers similar to horsehair but not nearly as scratchy. It can also be wound around a form producing a bundle of loops. A thick bundle is soft and thuddy, a sparse one has proportionally more bite and sting. In addition, nylon tress can be wet with water or alcohol to increase the impact, and can be cleaned with soap and water and disinfected with bleach solution. While some pro-

fessionally made floggers have nylon tress, it is one of the most popular materials for homemade toys.

Pigskin and Pig Suede are probably too thin and fragile for store-bought floggers but they are soft, inexpensive, come in many colors, easy to work with, and can make very nice, if short-lived homemade floggers.

Horsehair is fundamentally gentle, when used gently. It can tickle when dragged over skin, or deliver mild strokes with a bit of both sting and "scratch" to them. Used with a lot of force, it doesn't become significantly more painful, but it does begin to make micro-cuts in the skin that (for example) can make a dip in a chlorinated pool into an affair to remember! Given enough time, a horsehair flogging can draw very small amounts of blood. The finest and least damaging grade is a pale

continued on pg 24



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"braider's" horsehair which almost eliminates the concern about micro-cuts. The coarsest is found on "horsehair whisks," which are essentially horse tails fastened to long bamboo handles — and they cut! The darker braiding-quality horsehairs fall in between.

There are few substances that have not found their way to the front end of someone's flogger. This includes all kinds of plastic tubes and sheet, fish and reptile skins, insulated and bare wires, and even light chain. However, the ones discussed in this article are the most common and most "safe and sane."

Increasing the Effect

To this point we have been thinking about tress as simple flat ribbons or round strings. For reasons of economy, the majority of floggers are made this way. There are, however two simple methods of increasing the effect of a flogger that can easily be accomplished either by the whipcrafter, or by the owner at some later date. The first is to simply cut the end of the tress at an angle. The resulting points add emphasis to each stroke, without greatly increasing the amount of skin damage. The second is to split the end of each tress in half and tie the two strings into a knot. The resulting "knot and tassel" end allows for two kinds of stroke, a stinging stroke with the tassels only, and a far heavier blow using the knots.

Most of a flogger's aesthetic appeal comes from the appearance of the handle, but its performance, accuracy and ease of use results from the interaction of tress and handle engineering. The sensual effect, on the other hand, is determined by the final six inches of the tress bundle — its material, size, shape, texture, width and the speed with which it travels. This speed is in turn affected by the length of the handle, as much as by the length and "wind resistance" of

the tress bundle. Longer handles and tress bundles deliver more speed and therefore more energy at the target, assuming the user has the strength and endurance to use them to advantage.

... in the last analysis, the "right" balance is (what) feels right to the user.

Traditional punishment floggers had handles nearly as long as their tress. Modern designers make handles as small as 1/5 the length of the tress, though ratios of 1:3 and 1:2 are more the rule. An exception is the whip designed for self-flagellation. These want handles 10 - 18" long, with tress 12 - 20" long, to produce a configuration that can reach over the shoulder and around the hip to strike back or butt as desired.

Weighting

Weight is often added to the handles of both longlash whips and floggers with the idea of increasing the energy at the tip, and improving the balance of the implement. Whether to weight a handle, how much to weight and where to put it are very largely a matter of personal style and preference — but can, especially among longlash braiders, furnish hours of entertaining controversy and confusion. Personally, I have both weighted and unweighted floggers and longlashes, and I build floggers both with and without weighting. In general, my preference is to lengthen the handle before adding weight, and to add more weight to slow moving, ponderous, "thumpy" floggers than to thin, "sting-y"

cats. Experienced players have their own preferences — which sometimes come out sounding like hard and fast design rules. A doctrine I have often heard is, "The balance point of the flogger should fall under the forefinger of the hand that wields it, while the weight of the handle should equal the weight of the tress." There's enough good sense in this to say that a flogger should *feel* as if it were weighted this way, neither tress-heavy nor butt-heavy — but by actual measurement, the weight ratio could be almost anything. Besides, when big, soft floggers are over-weighted, you can wind up with the Bottom having a wonderful time, and wanting to go on forever — while the Top is in muscular agony and oxygen debt, just hanging on until the scene ends. (Does this constitute role-reversal? Should the Bottom be certified in CPR?)

As with cameras, swords and handguns, in the last analysis, the "right" balance is the balance that feels right to the user! Whipcrafters work towards an optimum "feel" relying on experience and experiment rather than formula. Changing the weighting without also adjusting handle and tress dimensions rarely improves an established design. If your personal preferences are very specific, you will need to find a Whipcrafter whose standard designs suit your tastes, or consult with a Whipcrafter who does custom work. Often a very small price premium will get you exactly what you want. However, when a Whipcrafter must copy another's work "exactly," that Flea market Special you paid fifteen dollars for ten years ago, may cost hundreds of dollars to recreate!

"Adam Selene" (aka Mitch Kessler) has been a Whipcrafter since 1987, when friends started asking him to, "make one for me," of designs he had crafted for his own use.



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Payne Manor Opens

The International fetish community has a new playground in Vancouver, BC Canada. Mistress Cassandra Payne, lifestyle dominatrix, has announced the opening of "Payne Manor," her Bed and Dungeon for the kinkily inclined.

Located in a quiet residential neighborhood, it is the transformation of a modest home into a "Fetish Wonderland." Guests have full and private access to a 120 sq.ft. Dungeon/Living area equipped with state of the art "Dangerous Furniture," and an array of instruments of discipline and control. Whatever your fetish, Payne Manor is equipped to deal creatively with it.

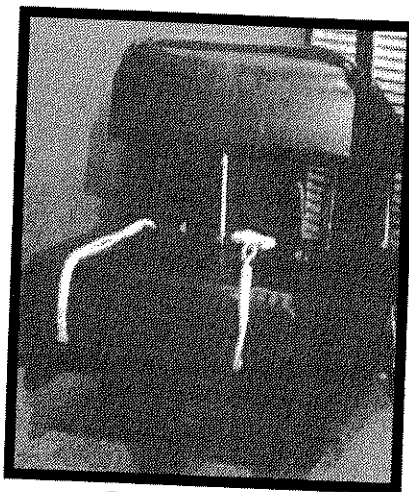
The staff, from Ms. Payne herself, to the lowliest scullery maid are highly skilled. Food preparation is done by a European-trained chef. Her on-staff technicians assure that the facilities and gear are maintained to specifications and cleanliness. Facilities are available 24 hours a day and trained submissives are on call at 60 minutes' notice. Cassandra's unique "personal services," are also available, should a firm guiding hand be necessary.

Payne Manor is 15 minutes from the Vancouver International Airport. The city has a thriving fetish scene, world-class shops, restaurants and night-life. For further information, call (604) 874-1102 12-10pm PT or email: mspayne@in2nett.com.

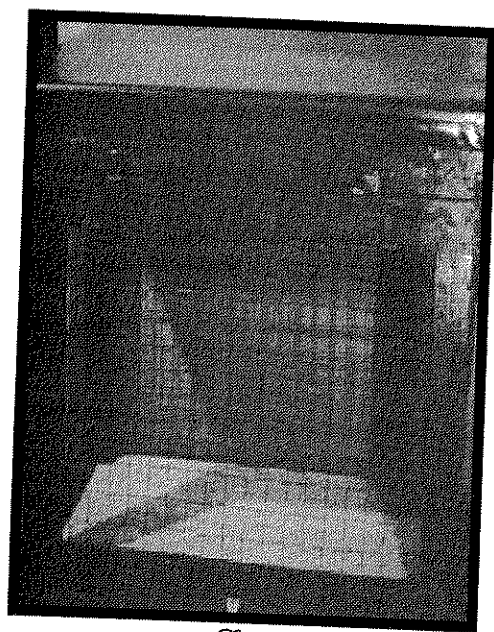
(If you need travel arrangements, call Sue at Pegasus Travel. She's "one of us.")



Mistress Cassandra Payne



Spanking Bench



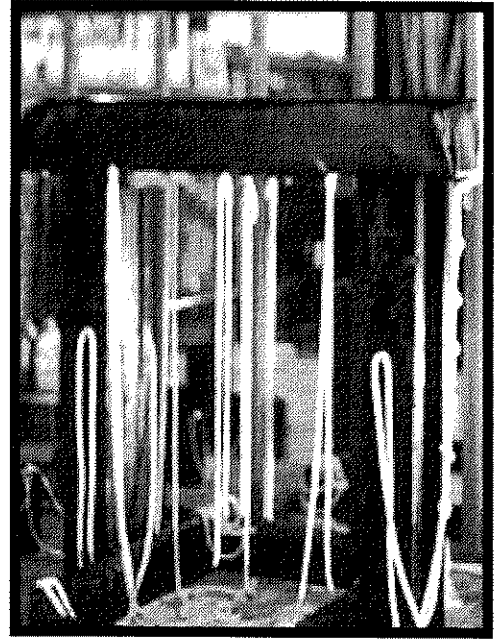
Cage



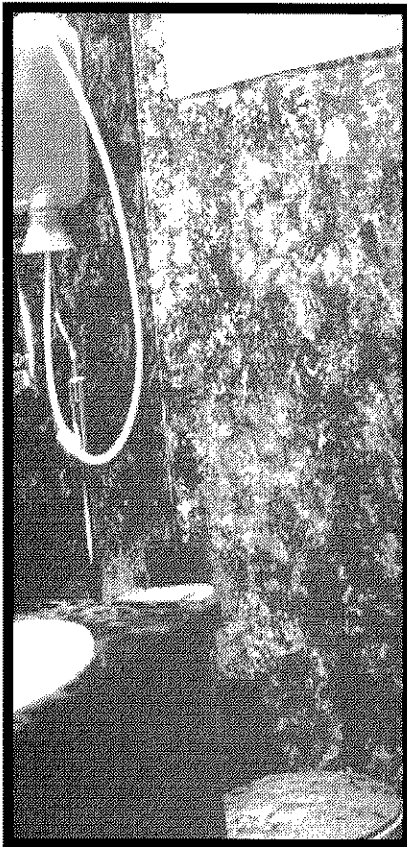
Bed



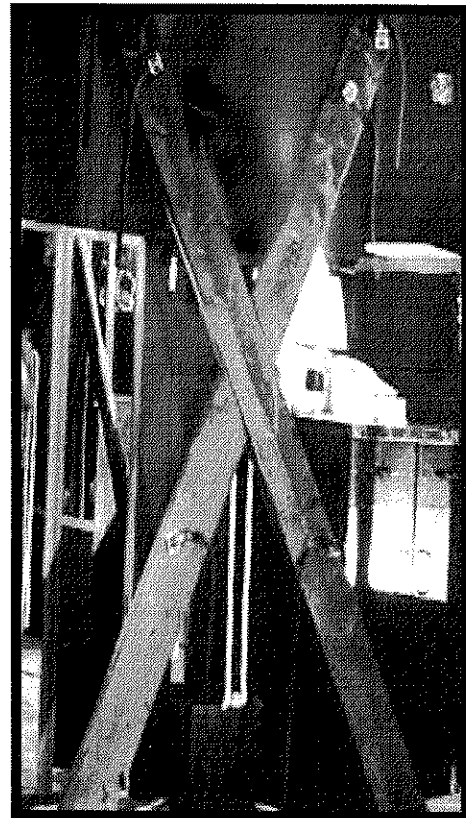
The Mistress's Throne



Spanking Horse



Water Sports



St. Andrew's Cross

Romancing the Rubber Band

A Grown-Ups' Game for the Young at Heart

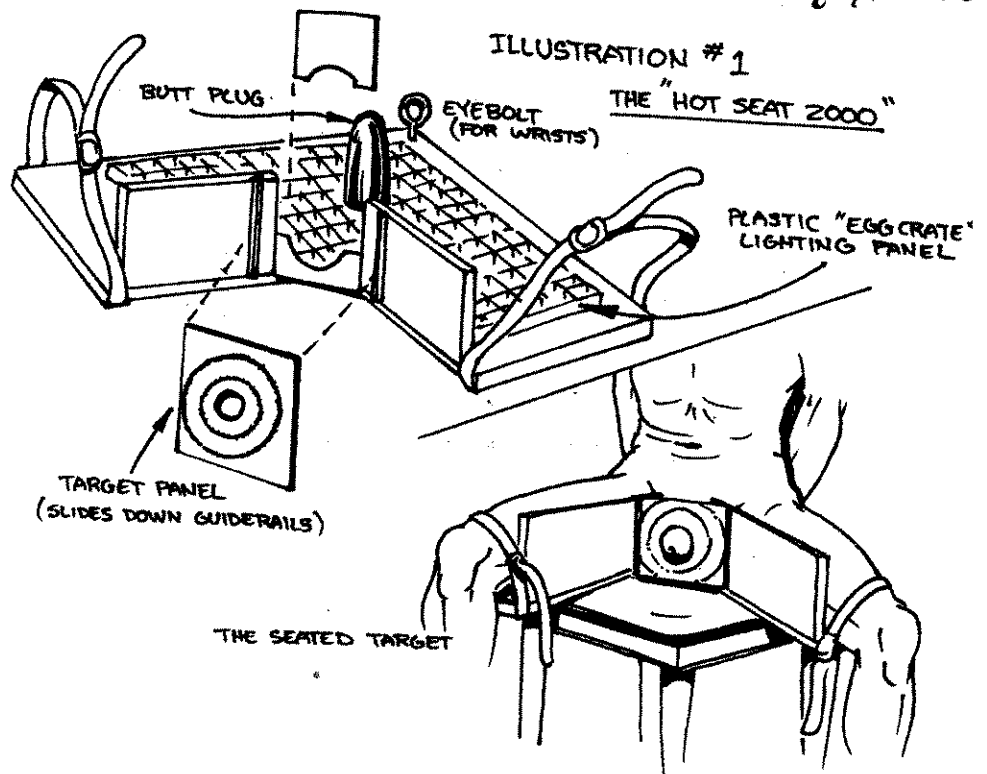
by Pierre

My family and I like to shoot. The challenge of hitting a target with just about anything has always appealed to us. An unscathed bullseye on a dart board, archery butt, or paper target is an irresistible lure — a challenge, an obscenely leering taunt. Leaving a pristine bullseye intact would be unthinkable!

The predilection for carefully gauging, aiming, and launching a projectile toward a selected site must be genetic. My father and father-in-law both had the fever, and my children have it too. Therefore, in order to allow my son and daughter to safely indulge this drive, I constructed (about a year ago) a rubber band pistol. Not just ANY rubber band pistol, but a deluxe single-action, bull-barreled, smooth-firing weapon with front and rear sights, capable of propelling one of those heavy-duty Post Office kinds of rubber bands unerringly across a room with enough force to knock a five inch plastic, poseable super-hero clean out of the Fischer/ Price house where he was lurking. It is a rubber band gun Tim Allen would be proud of.

After having joined my kids on several "hunts," an idea popped into my head and back to the workshop I went. One week later, I unveiled a contraption that would serve to forever tarnish the innocence of our simple rubber band gun — a gizmo/ thingy that I call: "The Hot Seat 2000." (see illus.)

The Hot Seat 2000 is basically an



intentionally uncomfortable sitting surface/bondage chair that spreads the legs of the sitter and since in our house that sitter is always me, isolates, immobilizes and presents the male genitalia in such a way that the head of the penis becomes a conical, flesh-pink bullseye in a kind of exaggerated adult arcade! All else is hidden and protected behind the face of the target and sides of the seat — only the sensitive, vulnerable, and coincidentally roundish glans pokes out invitingly from the middle of the concentric circles on the target face.

Thus exposed, the games can begin, and the variations of games are as limitless as your preferences and imagination. Now, admittedly, this whole idea may seem childish and silly, and the

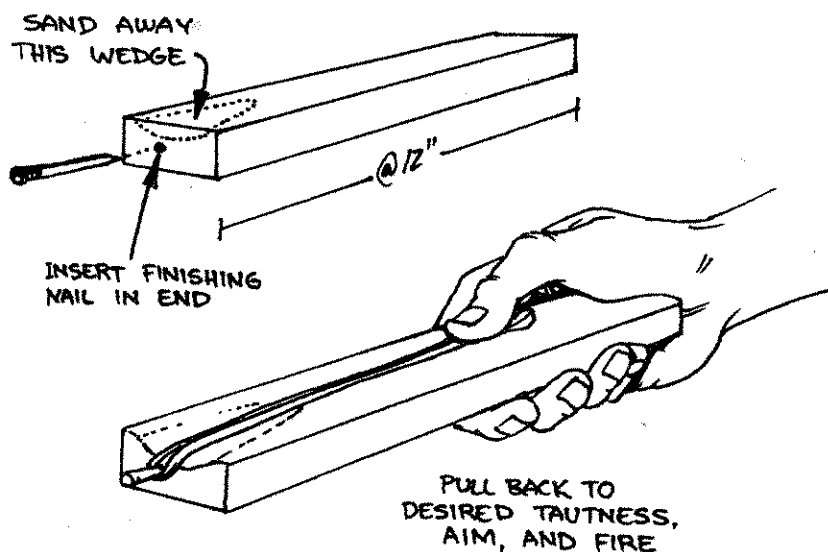
heavy hitters out there may be wondering: "What's the point? These are stupid little rubber bands!" But let me assure you while such games ARE somewhat childish and silly, they need not be without challenging discomfort. Just try this simple experiment Find a nice, tight 3" X 1/4" rubber band. Not all rubber bands are created equal. In a typical box from an office supply store, only half will have that "special" quality, but you will easily be able to tell the difference. Give one those "good ones" to your Top and, exposing whichever personal personal target area you would prefer, encourage your Top to fire the band off the edge of a ruler from about a foot away. Then tell me this is child's play ... rubber hath qualities even in this form!

If you are convinced, remember, the beautiful part of all this is that the level of sensation is easily altered to one's taste, the sensitivity of the target and how stretched the band is before firing, will all modify the amount of sting. While some of our games have been playfully mild, I once slunk away from a session with a lingeringly sore penis that looked as though it had been bitten by a dozen mosquitoes!

Now, while I will admit that both *The Hot Seat 2000* and the deluxe rubber band run require something of a workshop and some know-how to build, getting real enjoyment out of rubber band play can be very simple. The two most important elements are the proper rubber bands and a reliable way to shoot them. A 12" piece of pine, some sandpaper and one finishing nail are all you need to make a fine shooter (see illus.). The crucial design requirement is firing the loop over a rounded edge and off a forward-pointing pin. This will ensure that your shots will always fly straight, without the disconcerting "bounce" you get with fingers and rulers. Once you have a proper gun, anyone can make cut-out targets out of cardboard that let some body part function as a living bullseye. And if you can't build a *Hot Seat 2000*, then just bind your target to a wooden chair. You can still add extras to make sitting more uncomfortable; a waffled surface or a stout butt plug? The most appealing aspect of this game for me has always been having to deal with a variety of conflicting stimuli while wondering if the next shot would hit or miss. After playing this game, I truly understood why firing squad victims were offered a blindfold.

This game need not be geared only to men and their genitals. I imagine that even without a cut-out board, a rounded breast could serve as a natural target, with its concentrically delineated flesh,

ILLUSTRATION #2



areola, and nipple corresponding to increasing sensitivity toward the center. And of course behinds also have a naturally tender bullseye with misses still tormenting the bun-flesh on either side.

Top and bottom can set up contests based on accuracy or unflinching acceptance. Obediently ringing a small, mouth-bell when a direct hit is scored adds a playfully submissive twist. A set number of hits scored within a certain time frame, or with a limited number of rubber bands, can win a Top an extra-special reward or sentence the bottom to a particularly unpleasant penalty. Obviously the possibilities abound.

So, if you would like to add a bit of target practice to your D/S play, try rubber bands....another household item loaded with possibility. Silly? Yes. Childish? As childish as being spanked over a lap. Fun? Try it and decide for yourself. ♦

Pierre has a split educational background in both Biology & Fine Art and currently works in Retail Management. He and his wife have been married for over 11 years and are proud to have kept their 18-year relationship fresh with a sizable amount of love, hard work, and playful imagination.

Radical Sex Photos

by Michael Rosen. Three high quality soft-cover books of fine art photographs of radical sexuality. Individuals and couples of all genders and persuasions.



Sexual Art: X-Rated, but not pornography. Transgressive images of explicit sex, with non-standard penetration. Can sexually explicit images be art? This book argues that the answer is yes! Just published. 54 images. See photo at left. \$30.

Sexual Magic: 50 high energy, impressionistic photos of actual sadomasochistic sex scenes—not models—safe, non-exploitative, consensual. Startling interviews with the participants. *Guardian* #1 cover article. \$25.

Sexual Portraits: Real people. 47 images of S/M, erotic piercings and tattoos, leather, leather and lace, rubber, Master/slave, gender play, etc. Extensive and revealing interviews. *Featured in Guardian* #10. \$30.

\$6 discount for two books, \$12 discount for three. Add shipping \$5 per order. CA residents add tax, \$2 per book. Age statement required! Shaynew Press Dept G, POB 425221, San Fran, CA 94142.

Cornered!

A BDSM Wall Unit You Can Build



by Alex and Angel Palma-Isackson

This was one of our first toys, and we have really enjoyed it over the years. These are basic instructions to help you build a "Wall Unit" for yourself.

You will need a corner with at least four feet clear of windows, doors, etc. on each side. You can then mount the unit to the wall and let your imagination run wild.

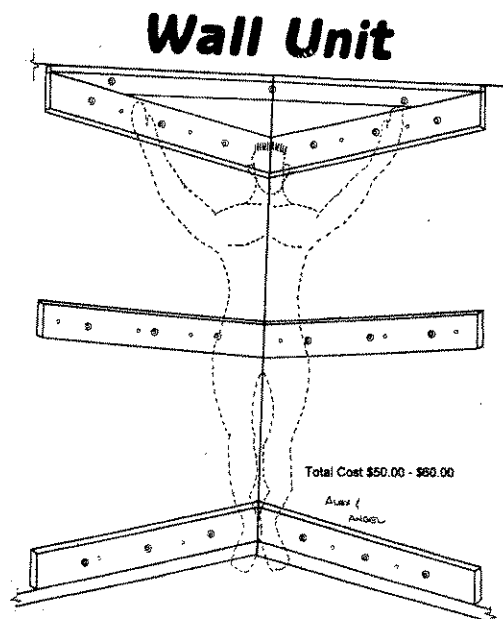
We recommend that you be very careful to drill the holes and screw the bolts through the 2 X 6 and *then* into a stud behind the wall.

One word of caution: We do *not* recommend full suspension from this unit.

Materials List

- 21 Eyelets - 1"
 - 20 Hex-Head Bolts - 2 1/2 or 3"
 - 41 Washers - 1"
 - 4 Flat Head Screws - 3"
 - 3 2 X 6 48" long
 - 3 2 X 6 46" long
 - 1 2 X 6 70" long
- with both ends cut at 45°

- 2 Cleats (optional)
- 1qt. Varnish (optional)
- Paint Brush (optional)
- Level
- Electric Drill or Ratchet Set



Alex and Angel have been together for seven years and have been active in the Atlanta community since 1990. They spend as much of their free time as they can sharing what they have learned with others. They have done hands-on workshops and presentations for numerous organizations. ♦

Houseplants of Gor Update

In addition to smiles, it got us two agitated replies from readers who "scolded" us for not knowing the author of this opus! As it turns out, we know her too, and when made aware of her authorship, we contacted her directly, apologized for the oversight, and sent a check for her work. So, all's well that ends well.

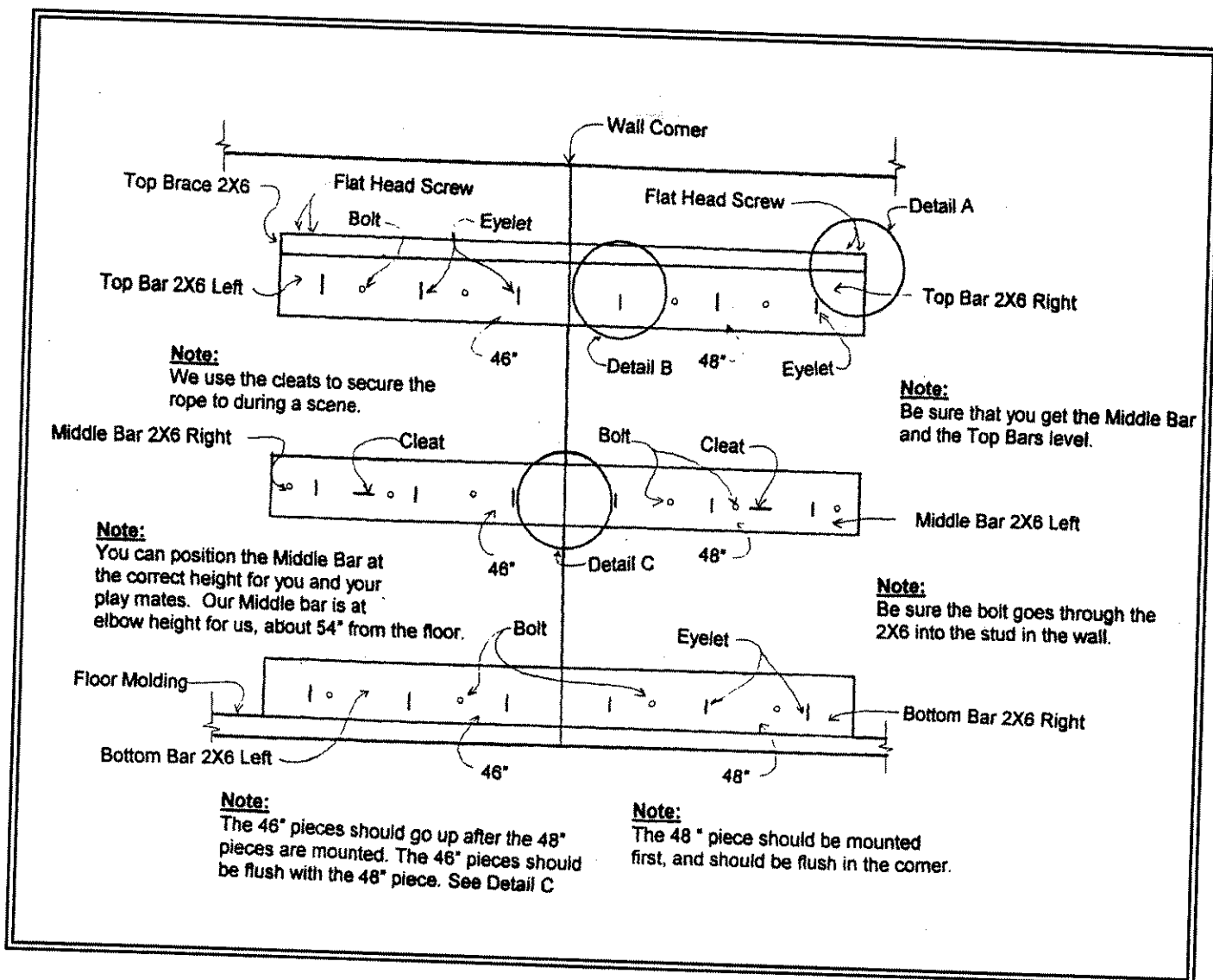
The author of "Houseplants of Gor" calls herself "Elle" and is known on the 'net as a creative and prolific writer. She is in law school right now and can be reached by email to: ellya@magenta.com.

We are sure she will welcome correspondence from those who share her sense of humor and point of view regarding the world of Gor. — Ed.

In Issue #23 we printed :

This parody has been circulating anonymously in Cyberspace. It is offered with affectionate good humor and apologies to John Norman, author of the "Gor" series of Fantasy Adventure novels and to the legion of fans who have derived so much pleasure and philosophical context from Mr. Norman's works.

I hope it raises a smile, guys! — Ed.



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CD-ROM REVIEWS

FETISH by ERiC Kroll

Edge Interactive Publishing

PO Box 20029, Columbus Circle Station

NY NY 10023 (800) 582-EDGE

\$49.95 + 2.50 s&h + NYS tax

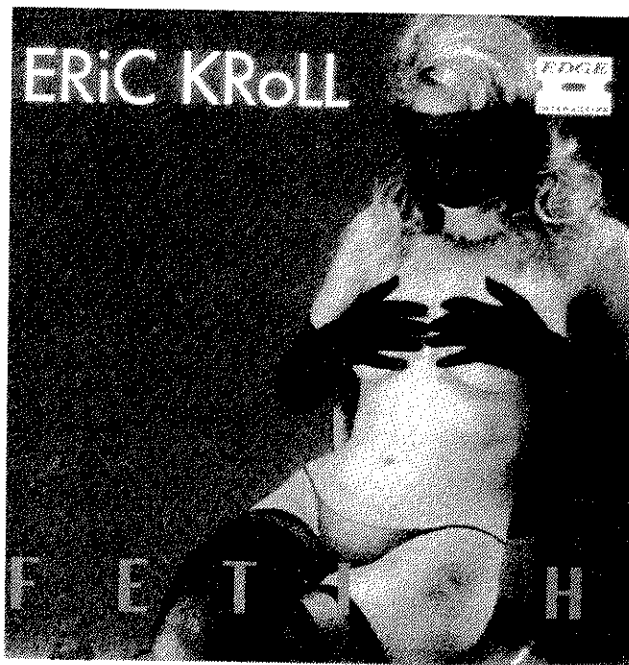
(Requires: Macintosh 68030, system 7.1 2x CD ROM

or Windows :486/25 SX, 6MB RAM 2x CD ROM)

FETISH is a photo collection which provides as intimate and revealing a look at the photographer's mind as at the bodies of the models.

In this CD ROM collection of images, Kroll not only presents some of his most exciting photos, but also shares technical information, biographical sketches, and insights into his creative process. There is even an article by Mrs. Kroll, "What It's Like to be Married to Eric Kroll." In addition, he reveals something rarely seen ... "outtake" images from the shooting sessions — the equivalent of being allowed to view the photographer's "proof sheets."

In all, FETISH contains nearly 500 images of eight different models. They pose in vintage underwear, outrageous rubber, PVC and Black Leather. Many pose topless, bottomless, and nude. Every "portfolio" has its own animated "movie clip" introducing each woman. The interactive format allows viewers to see their images in sequence — with Eric Kroll's written commentary on each session — or skip from one to the other, or search



for specific views by using fetish keywords describing costumes, props or poses. There is even a way to "zoom in" for a closer look at selected portions of each image. If you are already an Eric Kroll fan, or if you like exotic pin-up photography in the traditions of Irving Klaw (Betty Page's photographer) with the polished technique of a Peter Gowland (early Playboy magazine) ... and you own a personal computer -- this is one disk you *must* have in your collection. ♦



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www.queernet.org/Black Books

Alternative Sources Directory

Alternative Sources

PO Box 19591-255

55 Bloor Street West

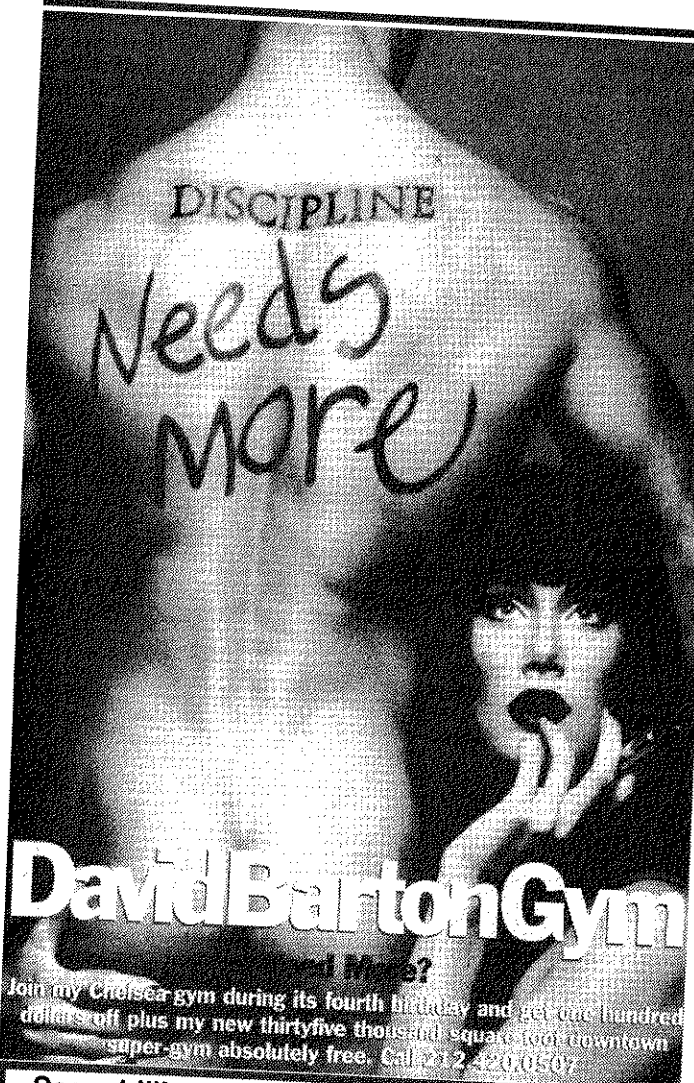
Toronto, ON M5W 3T9

CANADA

www.alternate.com/~wpc

The publisher of this handy directory has created a state-of-the-art CD-Rom version which catalogs the gay and leather scene almost in its entirety! Leather bars, shops, publications ... you name it — "it's in there!" More details on the AS website. ♦

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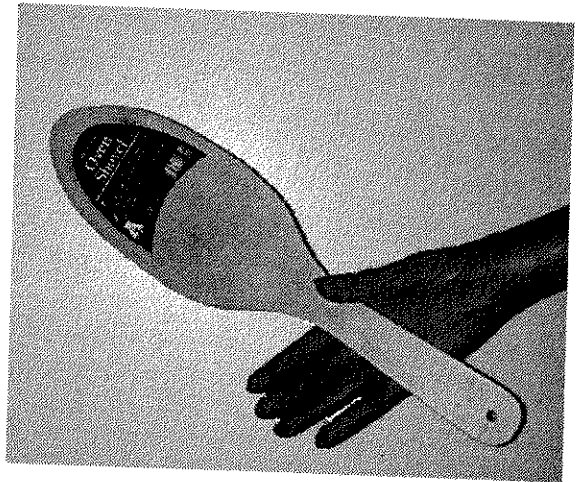
\$/Mart Shopper

A Wood Paddle — for Pizza ... and for Buns!

While browsing in a local housewares store for stocking stuffers this year, we found this fine-looking "Pizza Shovel," made of wood and sanded verry smooth, ready for varnishing!

Its interesting shape and inexpensive price, make this an ideal implement for those who fetishize wooden paddles. (The \$/Mart Shopper has a personal prejudice against them — they are harder than bone, and are unforgiving of "error.") One suggestion, though — sand down the rather sharp edge of the paddle put there to make it easier to get under a baking (or reheating) pizza.

A product of the Acme Company of Maplewood, NJ and imported from China, it is available at Lechter's Houswares and other "fine stores." **\$2.99**



Kiwi has helped us keep our shoes shiny for 90 years.

The Classic Kit is a favorite gift and has become a collector's item. The kit's lid is a reproduction of the original Kiwi™ paste tin, first popularized in the United States during World War II. American servicemen overseas took a shine to its remarkable ability to polish, nurture and protect military boots. An oversized round metal tin box contains: 2 tins of the famous polish, 2 brushes, 2 daubers, 2 large polishing clothes and a little bit of history.



If you took the advice of "Sgt. Roc Callahan" to heart about shining your leathers (Issue #22), you will want this classic shoeshine kit to do it right!

Kiwi Kit \$22.00 plus shipping # 06-051105

It is available from:

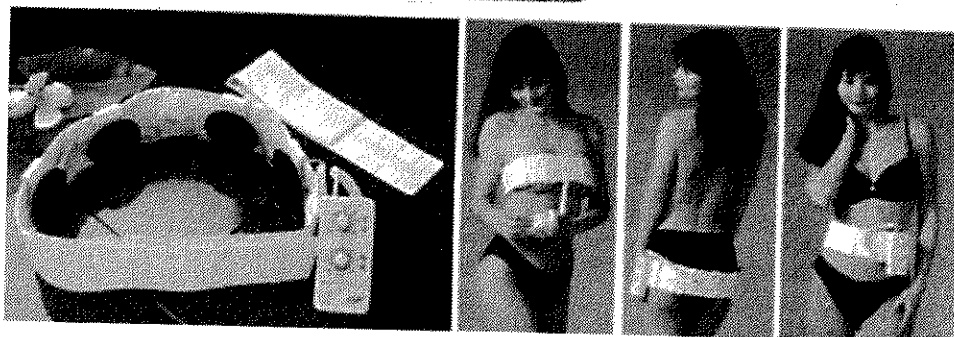
TZABACO, Inc
P.O.Box 487
Healdsburg, CA 95448
(800) 856-1667

email: tzabaco@aol.com

While they sell nothing else remotely BDSM, they do have some unique and tastefully upscale gift items at quite moderate prices. Selected items include donations to human rights and AIDS organizations.

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(ADVISORY: muscle contraction can achieve the intensity of a full-blown cramp or trigger a muscle spasm that persists after the current is discontinued. Accepted safety practice dictates that electrical stimulation never be applied above the waist.)

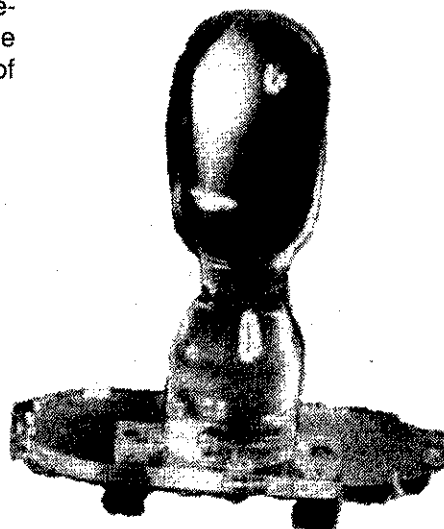
Private label models, priced around \$200 have the power to cause both muscle contraction and a prickly sensation (yes, it's an electrical shock) sometimes compared to a toned-down version of what a tattoo needle feels like.

The folks who make the more powerful units also make a variety of attachments (electrodes) as important to the experience as the unit itself, including dildoes, rings and pads. Of particular interest is the "Butt Plug" style. In addition to the electrical and purely muscular effects, the shape of this "insertable" makes the contractions of the sphincter produce a thrusting motion of the plug itself.

Sources for Electrodes and power units:

Paradise Electro Stimulation
3172 N. Rainbow Blvd. Suite 325
Las Vegas, NV 89108
(702) 656-9641

RoB Gallery
22 Shotwell St
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 252-1198



Here it is again! It is almost useless for its announced purpose: firming and toning muscle — which is at least part of the reason Officialdom has been trying to keep this product off the market for decades.

However it IS an interesting, if exotic and specialized sex toy. This is essentially a low-powered **Trans-Epidermal-Neural Stimulator** ... a "TENS" Unit.

It makes muscles contract. Depending on a myriad of factors, this can be arousing or agonizing, stimulating, satisfying, or quite frightening.

Unexpected Sources

Gall's Inc.

2680 Palumbo Dr.
PO Box 54308
Lexington KY 40555
1-800-477-7766
Free Catalog

Billing themselves as, "America's Largest Supplier to Public Safety Professionals," **Gall's** also has a lot to interest the BDSM devotee. In addition to an extensive selection of delights for Uniform Fetishists ... they stock a half-dozen Sam Brown "duty belt" designs, for example — **Gall's** has handcuffs and other restraints, gloves and medical supplies ... plus much more!

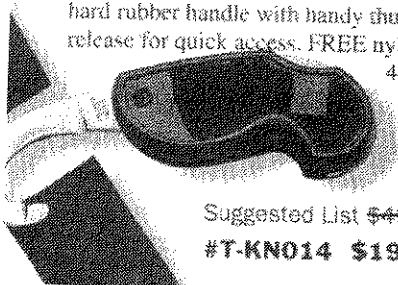
Special mention should be made of :

The TKNO14 Rescue Knife at \$19.99. Only 4 1/2" long when closed, the hook blade is wide enough to cut rope as well as nylon webbing, yet presents no sharp edges on the "outside." It's easier to sharpen than many other designs, too!

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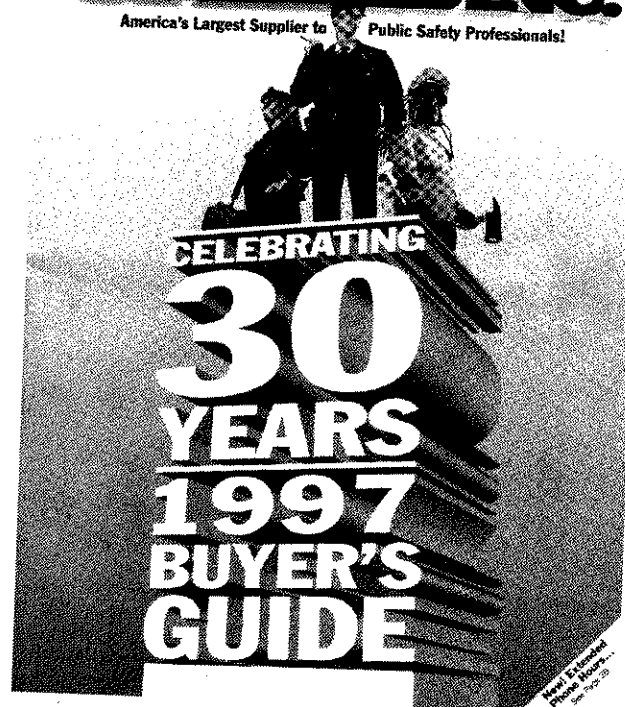
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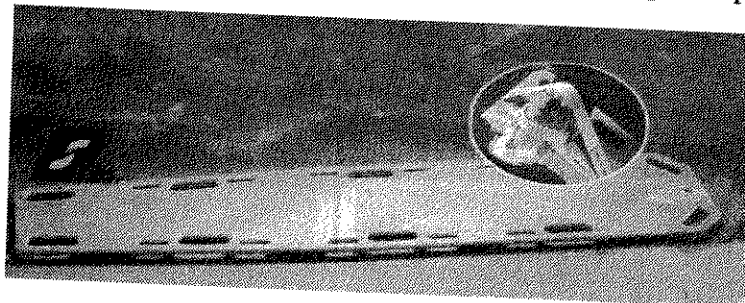


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T-EM248 \$129.99 plus shipping



The SandMUtopian Guardian #24

WEB SITE REVIEW

Gloria G. Brame's CASTLE IN THE SKY

www.gloria-brame.com

Gloria Brame, co-author of *DIFFERENT LOVING* describes her superlative website this way:

The purpose is to provide as encyclopedic a resource of kinky websites for the worldwide SM communities as possible. Its primary goals are informational, educational, and support. I think the web is an incredible opportunity for SMers all over the world to network — which gives us an opportunity for a political base that we've never had before. I try to cater to all styles and flavors of SM.

As with the book, my vision is to

try to help people understand that no matter HOW kinky they may be, they are not alone.

With more than 835 links to organizations, vendors, publishers and personal websites, CyberSeekers looking to make contact with the BDSM "community" could use this voluminous website as their first jumping-off place.

No lurid "nudies" greet the visitor on the opening screen. In fact, it is necessary to click on the "castle key" icon, or scroll down to the highlighted *DIFFERENT LOVING* text to get to the kink-links. Nor is this site one that yields all its secrets to the casual lookee-lou. A bit of patient exploration is called for, but it will be well rewarded. ♦

The SandMUtopian Guardian #24

Looking for moderately priced toys?



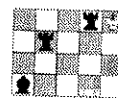
Scene couple offers custom-made whips, paddles, cuffs, collars, rods, and a wide selection of books, clamps, jewelry, etc., at affordable prices.

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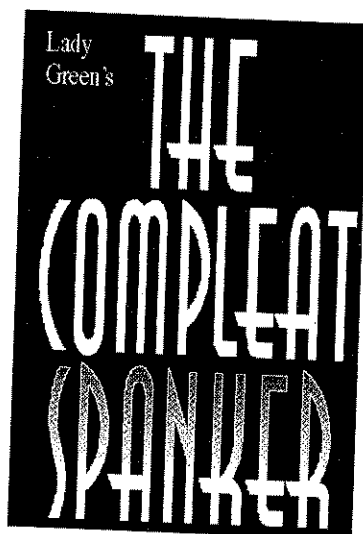
BOOK REVIEWS

The Compleat Spanker by Lady Green

Greenery Press
San Francisco, CA 94121
(415) 752-3700
email to: verdant@crl.com
Soft Cover, 96 pgs, \$11.95

Lady Green gives novices and explorers a level-headed and humane introduction to the theory and practice of the art of sensual fanny paddling. It's a good cross-over between the spanking and BDSM worlds.

She answers questions like, "Who Spanks? and Why?" Talks about anatomy, implements and positions, gives the reader some suggestions about what to do if "trouble" arises, and some "Tips Tricks, and Fun things to Try."

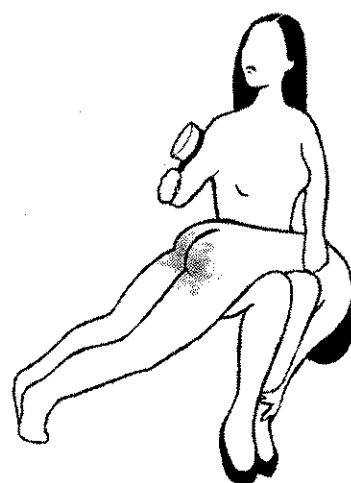


Also included are some hints on how to find "others," some on cleaning your implements and how to combine spanking with bondage for added pleasure.

What I find significant is that her approach is light-hearted, and she states her biases up front: she does not spank a partner against her/his will; she is not

in favor of using spanking as "punishment" for mistakes in the real world; she would not spank in anger or for revenge and lastly, will not spank anyone underage, either for punishment or erotically.

From cover to cover, her advice and suggestions are down-to-earth, practical and positive. It's a quick read and should be on the bookshelf of those just starting out on this adventure. ♦



New! — from Daedalus Publishing Co.

584 Castro St. #518
San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 626-1867 email: daedalus@bannon.com
Each are \$16.95 + \$3.00 S&H + CA tax

answers cover such topics as "Power Plays," "The Sex in Leathersex," "Bondage and Sensuality" "Going to Extremes," "Relationships," and even addresses, "Leathersex Past."

A valuable adjunct to the text is a Book List of other books to look for if you want to pursue the subject. ♦

Q&A:

Questions About Leathersex and the Leather Lifestyles Answered.

by Joseph Bean

The answers in this book are responses by the author to actual letters he received during his years as an editor of *Drummer*, a gay men's leather magazine and "big brother" to *The Guardian* while it was published by Desmodus. (Mr. Bean had also been Managing Editor of *The Guardian* for a time.) Although originating in a gay forum, the information contained in the replies are generally of use to any man or woman who wants to venture into the world of "leathersex."

With a Foreword by "leather icon" Guy Baldwin, the

Consensual Sadoomasochism:

How to Talk About It & How To Do It Safely

by William Henkin, PhD & Sybil Holiday, CCsSSE

This easy to read and easy to understand book concentrates on the "safety" of all aspects of SM play. It also defines "consensual sadoomasochism," examines the psychological power of erotic dominance and submission, and explains how SM can be an activity of intense intimacy and sophisticated erotic theater as well as one of simple pleasure. The authors have also written for *The Guardian* on age play, "It's Never Too Late to Have a Happy Childhood." (Issues #16&17) and parts of that article are used in their book. The Foreword is by Gloria Brame, co-author of *Different Loving*. ♦

The SandMUTopian Guardian #24

FETISH CALENDAR REVIEW

There seems to be a new category of BDSM imagery on the market. The "Fetish Calendar 1997," from Nashville Calendar, is the second one with a BDSM theme that we have received for review and advertising.

This calendar, from photographer Paul Theriault of Maine concentrates on women models. Each month has its own theme, from the Cowgirl that says goodbye to December '96, to the dreamy look of the woman who appears to be imprisoned in a closet and looking for a way out by climbing the door in December '97!

Along the way there are various views of thigh high boots in different positions and settings — hence its "Fetish" name. Miss January is looking at us while chewing on a single lash. But, why are the posters behind her backwards? Has it something to do with the "Janus" nature of the month? Looking backward and forward? Miss February is a personal favorite: just a rear view of a beautiful butt and a pair of thigh-highs. Too bad February is so short, and we will have to turn the page so soon!

But, you will have to see the rest for yourselves by getting the calendar. You can order direct from Paul Theriault. Send \$15, check or money order (which includes postage) to him at:

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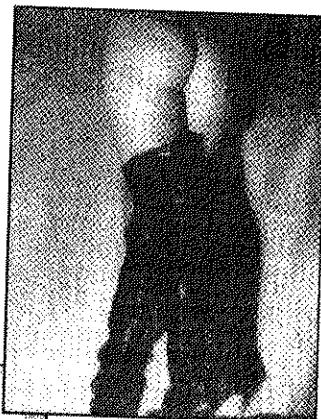
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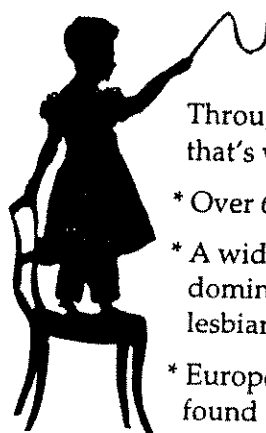
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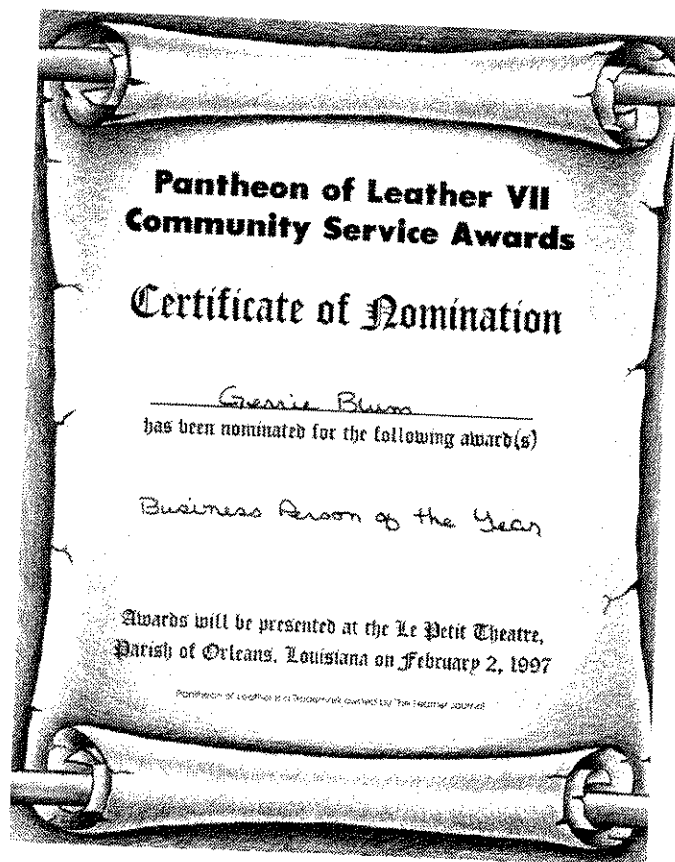
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Publisher Honored by Community

Co-Publisher of *The SandMUTopian Guardian*, Gerrie Blum has been Nominated by The Pantheon of Leather for Business Person of the Year.

This is the second award nomination for *The Guardian's* "dynamic duo," – her partner, Mitch Kessler was nominated for the same award several years ago.

Gerrie and Mitch are also known in the community as Adam and Gillian, the makers of Sensual Whips and Toys.

Winners will be decided at the Pantheon of Leather in New Orleans on February 2, 1997. The event is sponsored by *The Leather Journal Magazine* and its Publisher, Dave Rhodes.



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VIDEO REVIEW

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This is the first tape this reviewer has seen that addresses the psychological, sensual and technical issues of actually delivering a "distant caress" with a Bullwhip to a consenting adult's unprotected body. Other instructional tapes deal with developing Wild West performing artistry consisting of loud, complex cracking, and hitting targets — never one's partner.

This tape shows how you can hit a partner with pleasurable effect on both sides and how you can play erotically and sensually with different levels of contact from a painless caress to a weltraising strike.

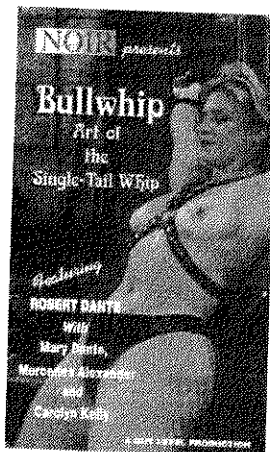
Robert Dante, doyen of BDSM's long-lash subculture, reveals an almost meditative style of whip-handling — far more suitable to the purpose than the athletic performances of even the best Cowboy Artists.

After reviewing the basics of whip design and whipcracking theory and

touching on the three basic strokes he uses, Dante begins to actually show how long-lash scenes can be created at different levels of intensity. Rather than lecturing us, he allows us to witness several scenes with his very attractive partners Mercedes Alexander, Carolyn Kelly and Mary Dante (who swings a pretty sexy bullwhip herself).

Viewers will have little doubt that the scenes they see are completely real — physically, emotionally and sensually. In fact, an empathetic viewer may find that nearly half the tape's 67 minutes can be viewed for erotic entertainment as well as for elevating instruction.

As a total novice's introduction to the concept of Single-tail Whip play, or as guidance to intermediate-level whipcrackers ready to begin human contact, this is a tape you will want to see over and over again. ♦



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Update on The Houghtons

From: Robert Dante,
Houghton Defense Fund,
Boudoir Noir Magazine:

The criminal case against Steve and Selina Houghton is over.

The Houghtons, facing five charges including two assault charges, accepted a desperate offer made by the District Attorney in which Selina Houghton pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct (without specifying what it was), and Steve Houghton pleaded guilty to one count of endangering the welfare of a minor, a Class E misdemeanor, also without defining the specifics of the charge.

The judge stipulated on the record that neither parent would receive jail terms.

The Houghtons' attorneys said Selina will probably receive a small fine (about \$50) and Steve will probably receive a fine and community service. Formal sentencing was scheduled for Dec. 20, but was postponed to Jan. 3 because of weather.

The Houghtons' two children were removed from their home January 5th, 1995 after police received a copy of a videotape showing Steve and Selina Houghton engaging in consensual SM at a dungeon party. The tape, made in a bordering state, did not show the Houghtons' children, who were at home, with a family member babysitting. Police and the Child Protection Services removed the children solely because the parents were seen as people who enjoyed SM with each other.

The resolution of the criminal case will clear the way for the Houghtons to continue their fight to regain parental rights in family court. Attorneys planned to file custody petitions immediately, Steve Houghton said.

In family court recently, the judge appointed a second law guardian for the children. In court, the two children's second law guardian was critical of the behaviour of the first law guardian and expressed her belief the children would be better served by returning them to their parents. A Children's Protective Services representative also was highly critical of the way the case was pursued, noting for the record that the children would probably need therapy after being removed from their home for a year. Several psychologists have already testified that the Houghtons are loving, capable parents and that their two children, ages 7 and 12, should be returned to them.



Steve Houghton said he ironically *did* endanger his children by asking a family member to babysit them while he and his wife went out of town for three nights.

It was while they were on this trip that their daughter was shown pictures from the stolen videotape in which Steve and Selina were filmed playing at a dungeon party the year before. She was told this was evidence her father was abusing her mother nonconsensually on a regular basis.

As part of the plea bargain brokered by his attorneys, Steve was permitted to read the following statement into the court records:

On or before 1993, I made a sexually explicit adult video. This video was kept in a locked, secure box. At some point, this security was compromised and the tape and other items were removed. I was in no way responsible for either of my children being exposed to such material. However, I must accept responsibility for it being in my house. My daughter has repeatedly stated that two family members and a former friend led her to, showed her or told her about sexually explicit material, such as videos or pictures. I would like to add that the participants in this video, or any of the pictures, were consenting adults, and there is no reference to, or mention of, children.

The children have been in foster care since the beginning of the year. The Houghtons recently were granted weekend visitation rights, based on counselors' reports.

The Boudoir Noir Defense Fund, which has coordinated donations to the Houghtons' legal bills, collected \$24,754.82 from individuals, support groups, gay and straight SM organizations and leather clubs. Without these generous donations which allowed the Houghtons to hire competent legal counsel, the Houghtons would have lost their parental rights in the first few months of their struggle and they would probably have both received jail sentences.

"We started this alone in January 1995, afraid, scared and hurt," Steve Houghton said. "We found from then until today we have more friends and more support and more people who care than we ever thought possible. Every person who sent a card, made a donation or offered to listen has made it possible for us to be where we are today."

While they are preparing for their day in family court, the Houghtons have restated their intention to share their experience with a larger audience in the mainstream media after they regain full custody of their children. Speaking engagements continue to be planned. ♦

Philip Miller

Community Author and Activist

died suddenly at his home in New Jersey on November 16, 1996.

Shortly before his death, he was interviewed for *The Guardian* by Michelle Biehl. We believe it is a fitting tribute and memorial to him to publish the interview at this time.

Here then, is Philip Miller in his own words:

by Michelle Biehl

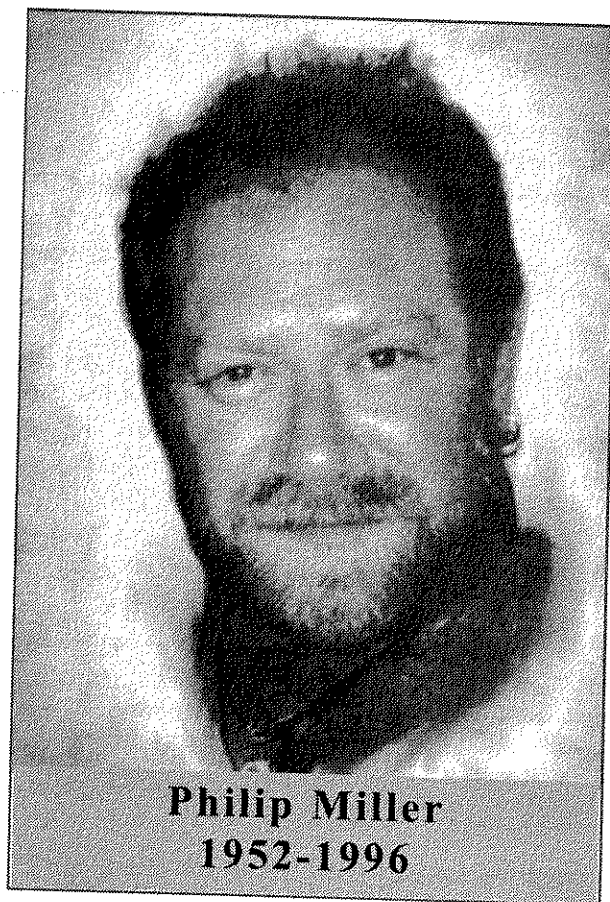
Along with Molly Devon, Philip is co-author of the book *Screw the Roses, Send Me the Thorns — the Romance and Sexual Sorcery of Sadoomasochism*.

Involved in SM on some level since he can remember, Philip has been actively involved in the public SM community since 1988. Philip is a writer, publisher, community activist and self-proclaimed hedonist. He is also a very funny man with an interesting perspective on BDSM.

MB If you're like many of us, you didn't spring full-grown into the SM community with your head held high. Do you think your writing and activist stance are a way to try to legitimize what many people still regard as a perversion?

PM - I came into both from quite different directions. I was already into the 'perversion' part of it when I was about six. It just felt natural to me. My first "girlfriend" was an illustration in a Frederick's of Hollywood catalogue. It wasn't until recently, in fact, that I realized (I can still see her in my mind) that part of the appeal for me was that her arms were behind her back. I didn't realize my sexual leanings were regarded as perverted until I was older. Talking to my peers is what clued me in, I guess. We all talked about sex and we talked about the really nasty, horrible stuff, like SM.

As to the community involvement, I have always been sort of a cause junkie. When I was 15 years old I wrote my own petition for gun control. I heavily protested the Viet Nam war and formed a men's consciousness-raising group over the women's lib movement in college. Then I married, and settled down for a while to raise my kids. When they



grew into a little independence, I worked against Reagan's war on Nicaragua and US oppression in Central America for six years. Now, I'm heavily involved in SM and sexuality; that's become my latest cause.

MB- So it's the community involvement that really got you interested in writing your book.

PM - It really started before Molly and I knew it was going to be a book. We have been members of EP [The English Palace computer bulletin board] since 1990 and it was starting to get bigger. This was before its connection to Internet. What we were finding was that a lot of people would come online with no clue about SM. There were a lot of bad and abusive attitudes, misinformation and misconceptions about SM. Charles Walker, the sysop of the BBS asked that we write a few articles to help newcomers get more solid footing on the principles and etiquette of safe, sane, consensual SM practice.

We wanted EP to remain an SM, fetish board with a comfortable, respectful, ambiance, so, we wrote a piece called "Mistress Manners" which was distributed to all new members. Mistress Manners advised new members to be honest and relaxed in forming new friendships online. It also warned that the behaviors that were so prolific on other adult boards — hounding the ladies for hot chat, asking

Philip Miller Interview, continued from p 43

about breast size or what they were wearing, and proclamations of enormous penis size would not hold them in high regard on the Palace. People had no clue, for example, if you are "collared" by someone, what might that mean and how should people treat you? We wanted to help people relax, so we wrote a bunch of stuff about different kinds of scene behavior, etiquette, safe practices and so on. Molly wrote a very funny piece about different types of dominant and submissive "wannabes" we had met and were disgusted by, which remains a part of the book almost exactly as it was originally written. Suddenly we found ourselves with a body of information we thought might become a book with a little expansion. Actually, the "little expansion" became a three year project resulting in *Screw the Roses, Send Me the Thorns*.

MB - And what made you decide to publish it yourself?

PM - By the time we had really gotten a good chunk of the book written, a year and a half had passed. From the inquiries to publishers it looked like we were going to end up with, maybe, \$700 for our efforts. So we did a little research and decided to try self-publishing.

MB - Have you regretted it?

PM - Not for a day! This is the most rewarding profession I've ever been in, and I've been in a few! I find myself in a position where my job is contacting and doing business with perverts like me! That is absolutely delightful. My hobby, my avocation, my sexuality—all are wrapped up in my job. It's really fun!

MB - Have you considered publishing others?

PM - We already have. We've just come out with the galley copies of a book called *Dhampir: Child of The Blood*, a book by Viola Johnson about her vampire lifestyle. We have contracts with other authors, as well. We want, in our typical tilt-at-windmills style, to change the way authors are paid. We want to equalize the partnership, splitting profits 50/50.

MB - You remarked earlier that your sadomasochistic feelings were natural to you. Did you ever feel ashamed? Did you try to censor your feelings and think something was terribly wrong with you?

PM - Absolutely. That's another reason we wrote the book. We want people to know their fantasies are healthy and natural and that they should give themselves permission to experiment with them in a safe and loving way. I was twenty-nine years old before I realized that lots of folks are into SM. Up until then, I felt really sick about it. I would never talk about it to people, though I actually tried a couple of scenes in college. Scenes! Ha! I didn't even know what the

hell a scene was. I just tied up a couple of girlfriends and we fucked. But they were both one night stands because throughout the whole thing we were terrified that we might be caught. I was attending a very small, very left-wing activist college at the time. I had started a men's consciousness raising group there and I was afraid of being ridden out on a rail for what I wanted to do to women.

MB - That's an interesting paradox. You obviously respect women, and advocate their equality. And yet you wanted to tie them up and whip their butts. Tell me more.

PM - I was thoroughly paranoid of being caught out as a pervert for wanting to tie up women. Still, my urges to do so were as strong as ever. I actually entered my first marriage partly to rid myself of these urges. I thought if I married a straight girl who would have nothing to do with bondage, it would straighten me out. Of course, it didn't work.

After divorcing my first wife, I was twenty-nine. I met this gorgeous Norwegian opera singer who asked me to tie her up and spank her! The Hallelujah chorus started playing; it was amazing! I blew the relationship, of course—in my enthusiasm I told her I loved her. She freaked out and ran. But before she took off, she introduced me to a bunch of healthy, productive people who were also into things like bondage and spanking. Discovering that I wasn't alone and that good people wanted the same things I did was mind-blowing.

MB - They weren't greasy, slimy guys maniacally waving their whips?

PM - They weren't what I thought I was inside, the greasy, slimy, maggot-ridden reptiles of society. From then on, just about everybody I have gone out with has been into some form of SM. I still consider myself a feminist. The women's movement is about basic human rights. Women should have the same freedoms of choice and opportunity that men enjoy. This includes equal access to jobs and promotions, and the freedom to pursue whatever sexuality is natural or pleasing to them. This includes the right to choose to be tied up and whipped or to do the binding and whipping. What is not generally understood is that SM is NOT abuse! This is the message that has to be made clear.

MB - What is this thing we call the "Scene" or the "Community?" Is this a way for a basically disenfranchised group to come together? Is it just a way to have kinky sex?

PM - I think everyone has their own reason for joining the semi-public scene by joining a group. I call it the "semi-public" scene as opposed to the private scene because I think there are literally hundreds of thousands of people who play and do bondage in their homes without joining the "leather underground" and a very tiny number of people who can afford to "come out" in public as SM players. There is a

Philip Miller Interview, continued from page 44

middle ground for people, too — joining computer boards where people can experiment with SM sexuality with relative anonymity. A lot of these computer types don't see themselves as part of the community; they are there to satisfy sexual curiosity. This is fine, too. They can sit back and watch. By reading about SM and conversing online, they can try the mindset of SM without a physical commitment. They may also find players in the lifestyle who become partners and mentors to start them on a solid footing. I would think a good number, maybe 40%, come into SM channels on some BBS or into Internet's IRC chat or whatever, and then stick around for a while. For a lot of people it is simply a way to have kinky sex. I don't see anything wrong with that at all. For others, it is a whole lot more than that. There is a wide range of people and experience levels. Some folks are just curious about it. For some there's a magic behind SM.

MB - You used the word "pervert" earlier when talking about your publishing activities. Now, when I look it up in the dictionary, pervert is something BAD.

PM - Well. Actually, I am following in the footsteps of Lenny Bruce. Bruce said, in one of his routines, that if you use the word nigger enough, it will lose its sting and ability to make people feel bad about themselves. Ruth Marks, a whip-maker from the west coast, gave a presentation about five years ago that really stuck with me. She started off by saying there are several words that need empowering. We need to empower the words hurt, pain, and pervert. She said there is good hurt and bad hurt, good pain and bad pain. Ruth told us that she enjoyed, "Good hurt and good pain with a bunch of happy, happy, perverts!" This is how I use "pervert." It's also important that we not take ourselves so friggin' seriously. People really need to lighten up.

MB - People say its "unnatural" to want to be tied up and whipped.

PM - No one really knows. The scientific community doesn't know where this stuff really comes from. Molly and I attended a conference of the American Academy of Clinical Sexology in Washington, D.C. The president, William Granzig, asked us to come down and be part of a panel. But he asked us first to just show up and not really talk about what we were into. Just hang out among the folks and let them get to know us for a few days. On the last day we were part of his presentation. This was a conference, by the way, of real hotshots; Dr. Ruth Westheimer was there, so were Dr. Albert Ellis, Dr. John Money and Dr. William Masters. So we were making friends and wandering around. On the afternoon of the last day, we came in full leathers and sat up by the presenters podium. The conferees were just flabbergasted! Geez, we had seemed like such nice, normal people to them and here they come to find out that

we're really the twisted souls their mothers had always warned them about! To tell you the truth, we were sort of amazed, too. Aside from a couple people with a limited understanding of SM, we discovered that most of the sexologists of our country have no clue of what SM is. They were curious as hell. After our presentation they just swarmed our table which was loaded to the gills with the toys we had brought. It was hysterical; like a bunch of 6th graders on a field trip. Only two people I can remember turned their noses up at us.

MB - What was your presentation about?

PM - Mostly just the basics of SM. What we do, why we do it, what it feels like. How we use pain. The difference between abuse and SM. Basic stuff; we didn't really have a lot of time. It was just amazing that these top professionals had so little information about us.

MB - People often perceive SM as violence and are shocked and confused by it.

PM - Yes. That's just it; SM isn't what it looks like. We are taught to fear pain, to associate hitting with anger and violence. This is why one has to have a little empathy for the general public, even for the prosecutors in the Houghton case. They don't understand that what we do is a good thing; loving, controlled, never done in anger and with mutual pleasure, even spirituality as our goals. Even the sexologists who have studied SM don't know where this orientation comes from. They do know it *isn't* coming from abusive families. It *doesn't* come from having an ultra-religious background. We have people from every different walk of life, all political beliefs, professions and economic strata. A healthy chunk of the adult public is, in fact, into SM. If you amalgamate all the surveys that have been taken, they suggest that about 25% of all adults are actually doing something — some spanking, tying up their spouse, on up to buying and using \$5,000 worth of toys.

MB - And that's the percent that admits it.

PM - We're closeted because of the social stigma. This causes big problems in itself. Here's a fact you won't find showing up on a statistical report: Speaking to a photographer for the Boston coroner's office a while ago, we learned that a percentage of self-inflicted death calls that police answer are due to self-bondage. They always list these as accidental deaths to save the families embarrassment. How many of these deaths could have been avoided with a little education? SM's not easy to explain to those who need the knowledge. I think we have an obligation to bring the message to the vanilla world, particularly to medical, health and social workers, police, prosecutors' offices and judges. In Portland, Oregon, I met a young man who works with the police on the gay- and SM-related cases that come to them. He is on call, helping to

continued on pg 46

Miller Interview, continued from page 45

counsel the victims of gay bashing and helps the police determine sensible handling of situations involving SM. We need a lot more people like this wonderful guy in Portland. Race Bannon and SMORG are doing a terrific job setting up the list of "Kink Aware Professionals." We need people who can afford to come out to start programs working with their local police, crisis intervention centers and social workers. Another place we could start making a difference is in the colleges where the psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers are trained. One of the messages I would like to see get out to our own people is that SM isn't a contest. I see far too many people trying to outdo the other by the amount of pain they can take. They're missing the point. It may be fun to push the envelope, occasionally, but beating on each other simply to build up a tolerance to pain is a fool's errand. There is much more to be gained from SM than that.

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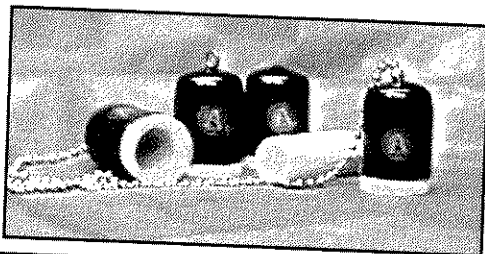
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MB - I suppose it's a continuum, like any expression of sexuality. You might be inclined a little or a lot.

PM - Yes, some people are happy playing very light scenes, others like to whip to blood and the majority falls somewhere between the two. Eventually you find a level where you're comfortable and you incorporate SM into the things you were into before. Often, it feels kind of kinky to have some plain vanilla sex all by itself.

MB - I find it's all part and parcel. With your lover it's just a part of your sexuality and a way to express yourself in your love making.

PM - Yes. I have had experiences with several submissives where SM actually takes us to a spiritual plane like meditation.

MB - Can you elaborate on that?

PM - Specifically with two submissives, we started to feel something that was a little "odd." There was a connectedness we felt and we didn't talk about it for a while. But it continued to grow stronger the more we played together. This would happen during heavy flogging sessions, predominate-ly. As we got into it and the sessions lengthened to an hour or so, this connectedness would happen. My partners said that they felt they were leaving their bodies. The odd thing was that I felt them go! Maybe it was astral projection, maybe not. The label we've hung on it is "flying." It was distinctly different for them from what we knew as the experience of sinking into a submissive head space, what some call "sub-space," or from an endorphin high. This is something different.

MB - Did you experience it too, then, beyond just watching them?

PM - I felt connected in one of two ways. In one way, I felt tethered to them by a bunch of strings as though they were kites, that I was flying them. I could control how far they went and how fast they went. And I could bring them back with this psychic connection. The other sensation I felt was as though I was a presence surrounding their presence like an envelope or bubble, protecting and guiding them. During these flying situations I would be physically whipping them, then as I felt them take off, I would just drop the flogging and let them cruise. It's a psychic connection. It's your minds touching. There is a lot more that I could say on this, most of it speculative, but I would love hearing from your readers about their experiences and opinions. This is a phenomenon that hasn't shown up in much of the literature; it's only been hinted at.

MB - Do you think you have to be in love to experience it?

PM - No. Affection and intimacy may make it easier for people to connect, but I don't think it's a critical factor.

MB - What changes have you seen in the public scene since you first got into it and now?

PM - It has exploded. The change has really come as Internet access has become widely available.

Miller Interview, continued from page 46

MB - So you think the Internet has allowed the people from all over the world, to find one another?

PM - Absolutely. Seven or eight years ago I was on CompuServe and it had a chat channel that was for BDSM. They had a forum, too. That drew a good number of people. Just making it an available topic was enough to attract all kinds of people who wouldn't look into it without the anonymity the computer affords. Internet has made connecting through computers so much more affordable that millions more people are using it. Madonna was another influence, interestingly enough. The music and accompanying videos she produced, and her book, *Sex*, exerted a tremendous influence because the media loves covering her antics. We benefited from the exposure.

MB - Do you think it's a good thing? This broadening of the scene to the masses, as it were?

PM - Well, I get two different reactions. Some people say, oh, this is wonderful! But there is a group of folks who have been into it for a long time and they feel like they are being invaded by the wannabes and the clueless and the fad followers. Some feel SM has lost something special and mysterious. You used to know what running around in leather meant.

Countdown on Spanner Update

In a recent correspondence with Val Langmuir, a representative of the Countdown on Spanner Foundation in the UK, Val said: "The Court date (at the European Court of Human Rights) was Monday October 21. Only an hour of arguments. The judges now consider those along with the long written submissions from both sides. We expect to hear the judgment in maybe four to six months from now.

"Fundraising in the US seems to have been channeled into the 'Houghton' case. We have had only one US fundraiser this year, in S.F., organised by friends of mine there at my request. Spanner is still desperately short of money to pay our lawyers. So any encouragement in that direction that you can give the US leather folks would be of great assistance.

"I should add that fundraisers in the UK have done better this year than previously. Our best raised nearly \$5000. I would also like to add that the campaign is most grateful for all the support for our cause we have had in the past from leatherfolk everywhere." ♦

MB - The uniform.

PM - Yes. The uniform, I guess, but it was more like wearing the "colors" a biker would wear. The variations had meaning. You can't tell anymore.

MB - Do you miss the intimacy?

PM - No. I don't. I don't feel invaded. If a hundred people stop having to feel ashamed of who they are or learn more about their own sexuality or have happier marriages to every one guy who's pissed off that being into leather isn't cool and elite any more, then I'm happy. In fact, if even one family is spared the agony of losing their children because of an enlightened cop or social worker, I'd be thrilled to trade that for every leather epaulet in the country.

MB - I've read your book. I recommend it to everyone new to the scene. Some people, like me, come into this so scared. I mean, we want to be here, but we're terrified that we are going to find we are all a bunch of sickos! And your book captures the charm and fun of it all. And gives us permission to express ourselves without guilt or shame.

PM - Thank you. It's a joyous pursuit. ♦

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THE CLASSIFIEDS - Our Readers' Market

The *SandM Utopian Guardian* invites our readers to "take advantage of us," and place an ad here. If you have any goods or services that you want other *Guardian* readers to know about, such as some excess S/M gear that you may have "outgrown" or craftwork that you make yourself whether scene- or nonscene-related.

We will publish ads from readers who are **scene professionals** and who run **phone sex services**, within the same line limits as other advertisers. However, we will **not** knowingly accept advertising for goods or services that are illegal.

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24

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Send your classified ad, together with your check or money order for the full amount to:

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Please sign your order with your real name, address and phone which will remain confidential with us.

iors. I believe that the vast majority of people who choose to read or watch pornography understand and can differentiate between the fantasy in these images and the reality of peoples' lives. Also, the border between what one feels and how one behaves can and should often be very wide, and the vast majority of people learn to control their behavior. Finally, I am very suspicious of criminals who claim that pornography *caused* their behavior. Until it can be shown that *all* rapists and abusers used pornography and that *all* those who use pornography become rapists and abusers, there is no causal proof, in my opinion.

As a BDSMer, one who is a member of BDSM groups and who has had BDSM erotica and non-fiction published, I have felt attacked by women and men whose visions of feminism differs from my own. I would like now to address a few issues that have been directed toward me personally.

Personal Beliefs

Unlike many women in the BDSM community, I have never felt an internal conflict between my feminism and my kinkiness. This is properly based on my understanding of feminism and my position as Top/Dominant, as opposed to bottom/submissive. I arrived at my definition of feminism from my upbringing, which was just barely feminist, and from my education, most of which was self-initiated until I was able to pursue a Women's Studies concentration as an undergraduate. For me, feminism is the fairly modern notion that men and women should have the same responsibilities and privileges in society, except where reproductive differences apply. I believe that most gender roles and gender stereotypes are merely effects of culture and differ from one culture to another. I also believe that while law and economics may help make a difference, the only real changes in society come through education from the birth of a child until that person's death. It is this understanding of humanity, combined with a strong spirituality, which formed the basis of my acceptance of my own BDSM interests.

Many people have approached me with *their* concerns about my interests in BDSM. The most common question a woman gets when she lets anyone know she is interested in BDSM is, "How can you let him do that stuff to you?" There are a couple of problems with this question. First, it assumes that I am heterosexual. I am, but not every woman into BDSM is. The fact that the question is being asked at all implies that the question-

er doubts that I've thought about what I'm doing. I insist upon long, detailed negotiation before my first scene with any person, and upon continued honest communication between both parties, in and out of scene. I have a small but growing reputation for two- to three-hour negotiation sessions, and I have broken off relationships with a few people who did not deal honestly with me outside of scene space. Finally, and this is generally the point at which the questioner has to change position, it assumes that all

My scenes leave me feeling free, valued and trusted.

women bottom/submit and all men Top/Dominate. I do not bottom or sub; I am strictly a Dom and a Top.

That's generally enough to silence most critics who can't imagine anything other than the woman-bottom /man-top model. Some, however, may counter with, "You don't really dominate; you're simply fulfilling his male fantasy." Now it is a common belief in the BDSM community that there are more bottoms than Tops and that men outnumber women. However, I introduce various types of BDSM play into all of my romantic relationships. My husband and I have enjoyed discovering where our interests overlap and how to enhance our enjoyment of BDSM. But I never enter into a BDSM scene with him unless I desire the interaction for my own sake, nor do I expect him to bottom to me unless *he* desires to do so. We base our relationship on mutual satisfaction beginning with our internal desires. Further, I know several other women who are primarily or entirely Top/Dom who are in the same position.

The next attack is the one which I find the most hurtful. "It's because of your childhood; you're reenacting the patriarchal/hierarchical violence you learned." This offends me for two reasons: First, it assumes that only childhood abuse can cause an interest in BDSM. Now, while I am a survivor of both incestuous and stranger rape from very early childhood, most people in the BDSM community have not had any more negative childhood experiences than the average vanilla person. Second, it assumes that my scenes are reenactments of my experiences.

Nothing could be further from the truth. I was violated by persons who were adults when I was a child — they never asked my consent, and they never cared. I have strict rules about the age of men I will play with; they must be at least eighteen and preferably over twenty, and I never *ever* scene until I have first gotten to know someone as a casual friend and we have gone through a long negotiation process. Further, I never scene when I am feeling strong negative emotions such as anger or fear. I have learned that these can be doorways to non-consensual behavior regardless of whether it is a sexual or nonsexual interaction.

The final attack leveled at me has been, "All hierarchical relationships are in opposition to the principles of feminism. Dominance and submission are necessarily hierarchical." By this point, and it is rare that anyone keeps up an attack on me for this long in person, I tend to get very tired. This statement ignores the fact that all social organizations or groups whose membership numbers more than a few dozen have hierarchical structures to help them deal with decisions that need to be made for the survival of the group; the National Organization for Women is merely one example. Further, the statement fails to understand that hierarchies entered into under mutual consent and in the form of sexual play are different from those common in the everyday world, where hierarchies seemingly impose themselves on us at every opportunity. These non-consensual hierarchies leave me feeling trapped, used, and angry. My scenes leave me feeling free, valued, and trusted.

Caught in the Middle

It seems that I am often caught in the middle when BDSM and feminism collide. I feel isolated at times from both communities, and that saddens me. There are internal differences of opinion within each community that need to be addressed for the health of the members. External forces such as a return to a traditional restrictive social and political environment threaten both communities' existence. In my opinion, all of these issues and misunderstandings could be addressed if people would just sit down and talk, go into each other's communities and observe, and most importantly, realize that each person is different. Unfortunately, there is little outreach from either community toward the other. As a woman who proudly claims a place within each, let me extend my mind and my hand to anyone who wants to understand my reality. ♦

BDSM and Feminism: An Insider's View

by Tammy Jo Eckhart

The debate in feminist circles about BDSM (bondage, discipline, dominance, submission, or sado-masochistic consensual activity) has raged now for over a decade. Recently, a collection of essays by women in the BDSM community, *Some Women*, edited by Laura Antoniou was published. Most essays dealt with the on-going debate within feminism. Clearly there are concerns among women in the BDSM community about feminism and about other feminists. Likewise, there have been numerous articles and books such as, *Against Sadomasochism*, written by feminists, attacking what they call SM, especially in the lesbian community. This essay will be my opinion based on my experiences as a heterosexual, feminist, dominant woman.

Since I have been questioned by both sides and have concerns about miscommunication between them, I will address a few of each group's issues. First, problems I perceive within the BDSM community. Next a few of the attacks which have been directed toward me or various groups I belong to by feminists.

I believe that the concept of "two sides" is an oversimplification in itself. There is no one feminist view nor one BDSM view of the issues I will be addressing in this essay. However, the issues are often represented as though there were merely two views — and in these debates I am often marginalized by both generalized arguments.

As a feminist who is a member of different local and national feminist organizations, I often feel as if I don't fit in with the BDSM community when certain topics are discussed such as feminism in general, abuse, and pornography.

In general, feminism is often portrayed as a single entity concerned only with limiting women's freedom of sexuality. To be perfectly honest, when one reads the literature from self-proclaimed feminists it does seem that way — it always seems that the same book, the same movie, and the same victim are being discussed over and over again. The biggest complaint from within the BDSM community toward feminists is that they are being inconsistent—they should be more tolerant of others just as they wish to be accepted. This perception is based, I believe, on a misunderstanding of feminism. While I

would be one of the first to argue that feminism has a strong personal element, it is primarily a political and social movement, and as such its main weapon is rhetoric. Rhetoric is rarely the search for truth. It is the method to convince others of one's viewpoint.

There is a second element to the misunderstanding of feminism, based on the lack of knowledge within the BDSM community about the mainstream image of BDSM. First, the mainstream image, especially movies and "girlie" magazines, is primarily made and consumed by heterosexual men and thus primarily represents fantasies which hetero-

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**Be honest:
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sexual men are supposed to have in American culture. Second, even in homosexual images, the purpose of the material is to create a fantasy where real-life issues of consent and safe sex don't exist. Lastly, there is a tendency to downplay how frightening these images are to vanilla (non-BDSM) people, especially those who are fighting against sexism and violence.

The issue of potential abuse between BDSMers, in vanilla relationships, and from childhood is one which received little discussion in the BDSM community until very recently. Often I find that the issue is filed under the heading "not consensual means not BDSM," and while I agree that theoretically this is as true as the statement "not consensual means not making love," there is a difference between reality and theory. I know from friends and even family members that an abuser will use any excuse to justify the behavior, whether that excuse is love, marriage, or the context of a BDSM scene.

Recently, different organizations in the community have acknowledged that abuse occurs under the guise of BDSM. A few articles and brochures have been published discussing the issue and urging support for victims. In public clubs and parties there are strict rules for behavior and people appointed to enforce these rules will physically remove violators from the premise.

Abuse in BDSM in Private

However, the issue of how the BDSM community should deal with abuse that occurs in private settings is an issue where my opinions often seem to be in the minority. There are three basic questions here: Should victims inform the community at large? How should abusers be dealt with in the community? What support should be offered to victims by the community? There seems to be universal agreement that victims should be supported by offers of money and safe space while they deal with the abuse and its effects on their lives. I would further suggest meetings of survivors, in organizations' spaces using organizations' funds, as a further way to help them recover.

The first two questions are often debated within the BDSM community. Most believe that victims should confide in those around them, but they fear that false charges will ruin people's lives. I believe that lying about abuse is rare and that the best way to sort out the truth is to make it public. If it is public, all sides of the story can be heard, and all participating can make up their minds. More information about potential partners allows one to make a better decision and may prevent future abuse from occurring. The final issue with which I often find myself at odds within the BDSM community is pornography. Everyone I have ever spoken with about pornography seems adamantly opposed to the idea that words, sounds, or images could possibly have any effect on a person's behavior or attitudes. I believe this to be a naive view. Obviously what we hear, read and see does affect us; otherwise there would be no commercials trying to sell us ideas and products. Likewise, there would be no market for pornography or erotica if they did not sexually arouse people and enhance their orgasms. Be honest: we read and watch it to get turned on.

I'm going to muddy the waters further now by discussing my disagreement with the anti-pornography view. There is an oversimplification in the feminist discussions of pornography which take an anti-pornography stance — the idea that pornography forever changes a person's attitudes and behav-

Writer's Guidelines -- for *THE SANDMUTOPIAN GUARDIAN*

a Journal of BDSM Realities

The Guardian is first and foremost a practical guide to safe and enjoyable exotic erotica. Think of it as a combination of the *Popular Mechanics™* and *Consumer's Digest™* of kinky sex. Our ambition is to become the independent "Journal of Record" of BDSM. Our readership includes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and power polarities. While readers' experience levels range from "just thinking about it," to "lifestyle devotee," we want to be especially mindful of, and useful to, the *less* experienced reader.

The Guardian is not following anyone's Party Line nor is it aligned with any particular demographic sub-grouping. We will NOT REFUSE a piece because of the "political" point of view it reflects or (to the limit of Statutory Libel) because "someone" will "be offended."

We take the broadest possible view of what constitutes appropriate material

*EQUIPMENT *LEGAL and SOCIAL ISSUES

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HEALTH and SAFETY CONCERNS

Almost anything touching on BDSM, Fetish, Power Exchange, might be a successful article. We also buy "filler" pieces: humorous anecdotes, tips and hints, cartoons, etc..

Work can be submitted typewritten, or as an ASCII file in PC or MAC format.

Payment: We pay — not lavishly, but respectably. Please contact us for particulars, including special situations, including illustrations, and reprints. Contributors get a copy of the magazine in which their article appears.

We buy one-time serial rights with a one-time reprint provision. Payment is on acceptance, and we will respond to all submissions within 60 days. SASE required for return.

Style and Content

Factual material, organized sequentially is the first concern, "style" is a bonus. Remember the "5 W's" of Journalism:

Who, What, Where, When, and how — the "How to Write a Good Term Paper" handbooks? That's the idea.

Citations are Good. If you reference a product or publication, there should be an address and/or phone number, too. Appended Resource Lists are always welcome.

It is probably better to put too many words on paper, than to skip over "the obvious." Clarifying illustration, even crude hand drawings, is always useful.

About "PC Language": Writers needn't feel that they have to obscure their own orientations, alignments or biases — and gender specific pronouns *are* used when a specific person's gender is known, or gender is relevant. Otherwise, we like a style which de-emphasizes gender, polarity, and orientation. We have no problem with the "he/she, her/him" style used in Government documents, the "false plural" form or even the made up pronouns like "(s)he" and "co." Please be mindful that 1/2 of Humanity is *not* Male and at least 10% of it is *not* heterosexual. Try for inclusiveness.

About "Safety" : We assume that our readers are adults and that we, and they, reached maturity by not being "stupid or reckless." *The Guardian* focuses on the pleasure and sensual nature of BDSM and less on the dangers, perils and negatives of BDSM play. If there are some safety or health issues not readily apparent, they need to be included. But we will not belabor the obvious.

DEADLINES:

The next issue of *The Guardian* is #25, and will be ready for the printer the first week in April. If your piece misses the deadline, we will still be buying and paying as we go. In effect, we've got to worry about deadlines ... you can just work to your own schedule.

ARTWORK AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Artists and illustrators are invited to send samples of their work by way of self-introduction. Almost all illustration will be commissioned for particular articles. Possible cover art, photo-essays and folios will be considered on their own merits. We want to project enjoyment, respect, safe-and-sane practice, and consensuality — or at least *not* communicate the reverse.

We are *not* in the market for "eye candy," rigid bondage/genitorture studies or depictions of atrocities. Work can be submitted in MAC or WINDOWS disk formats. If photographs are accepted, we prefer to have the negative for proper reproduction — and, of course, Model Releases in keeping with the new law.

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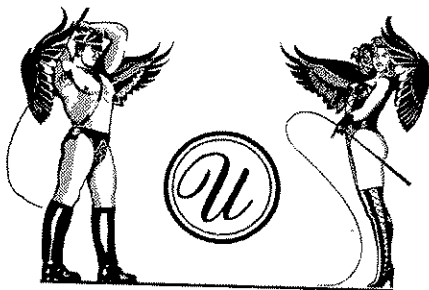
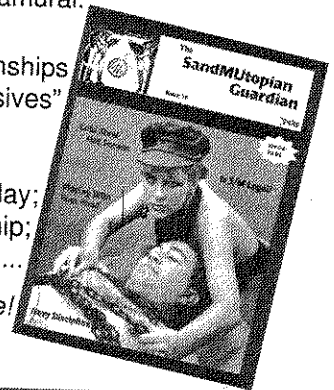
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